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### Farmington

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# FARMINGTON

— *The Fulfillment of a Dream*



By LINDA C. RIES  
AND  
VIOLET F. SMITH









# FARMINGTON

*The Fulfillment of a Dream*

*Published by*

LINDA C. RIES

AND

VIOLET F. SMITH

Copyright 1959  
by  
LINDA C. RIES  
and  
VIOLET F. SMITH

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## DEDICATION

To the many helpful people who have visited Farmington and afterwards have written such heart-warming notes and articles showing their deep appreciation; to the numerous interested friends; and last, but not least, to Mr. Porter Smith and his son, Robert K. Smith—we dedicate this book.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Title .....	3
Copyright .....	4
Dedication .....	5
Introduction .....	7
Chapter I .....	9
Chapter II .....	13
Chapter III .....	15
Chapter IV .....	17
Chapter V .....	21

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Original Land Grant.....	2
Farmington As It Looked in 1949.....	10
Winter at Farmington 1957.....	12
Remodeled Summer Kitchen 1957.....	18
Coach House .....	20

## INTRODUCTION

Four years previous to the purchase of Farmington, Mrs. Porter Smith was encouraged by her son, Bob, to look at the house and grounds, which were for sale. Bob's inspiration was so high to "do something" for this old and lovely home that he could not be ignored, and as a result came Mrs. Smith's first visit to Farmington.

Later, upon returning from their tour of inspection, she and Bob consulted Mr. Smith and, even though he had not yet seen the house himself, he submitted an offer to purchase it, relying upon their judgment. This offer, however, was rejected, and, although the family was disappointed, they dismissed the thought from their minds.

It seems that it was inevitable for this house to be theirs, for several years later the opportunity to buy it came to them again. The company for which Mr. Smith worked wanted him to transfer to Cincinnati and this decision faced the family. It was a hard one to make and it worried Mr. Smith as he pondered it over and over in his mind—to no avail.

"Could it be our home that makes you want to remain here? Why let it interfere with our plans?" asked Mrs. Smith. These questions drew this answer from her husband: "You know, I believe you've got something there."

Then the discovery that Farmington was on the market again re-kindled the flame of inspiration in Bob Smith. He decided to contact his art instructor to see if he would cooperate with him in buying the home. This gave Mrs. Smith the knowledge that he too did not want to move, but wanted to remain in Louisville to continue his work.

Again the family made an offer to buy Farmington. This time it was accepted, and they were given possession immediately.

When the house was bought, it was in dire need of repairs. The debris was piled high, and only Bob could see through the dirt and overlook the debris. He did not think of the expense there would be

to help this house to recapture its dignity, or how long it would take to accomplish this; he was only farsighted enough to visualize the future results and to fulfill his desire to bring to the present the dignity and graciousness that Farmington had in the past.

\* \* \* \* \*

There are many factors that led us to write this book, but above them all, we felt it our duty to leave a record of the past years for future generations—of the progress from past to present and of the promise of the future. This historic home should not be allowed to crumble back into the past and vanish, but should be kept as an eternal monument in the hearts of all Americans—as a tribute to America's forefathers and their courageous struggles to fulfill their dreams.

What is recorded here will serve as a reference in times to come in aiding researchers on the subject of Farmington. We feel that this record will answer many questions and eliminate any doubts as to what occurred or what was done at Farmington between the years 1949 and 1959.

So you see, Farmington was bought as the result of the inspiration and dreams of a young man and the faith that his parents had in those ambitions. That is why we believe that Farmington was built as the result of a dream, and that is why its restoration is the *Fulfillment of a Dream*.

## CHAPTER I

It was December 23, 1949—moving day for Porter, Bob, and me. I remember it so vividly. The day was icy cold and dreary. The wind whipped through the trees as if it were in a hurry to reach some unknown destination. The low spots in the ground where the water stood by the creek were covered with ice, and the ground was frozen hard.

Some moving vans were pulled onto the driveway, and Porter was soon busy directing the movers, leaving me alone for a while with my thoughts. Everywhere I looked, a picture from the past crept into view. The house seemed to stare at me, challenging me to review the past with it—the days of yesteryear when it was young. . . .

It was the same day—only the year was 1810. Judge Speed would have been worried about the weather, and the welfare of his animals.

"Joel," he would say, "are you *sure* you locked the barn door?"

"Yes, suh," came the answer. "That do'ah just *couldn't* blow open now, Marse Speed."

"That's good, Joel, and thank you," the Judge would say, relieved of some of his apprehensions.

Then he would move to the morning room windows and stare out across the fields, wishing it were summer when they would be green with newly-planted corn and hemp. The stream water would be clear and running free, and it would be full of plush green water cress and mint. The trout would be jumping up the stream a'ways, and they would taste so good for dinner on a hot summer night. The trees would look again like ballet dancers, swaying in the breeze, and the bare spots among their boughs would be vacant no more, but filled with new, tender green shoots of leaves.

Ah, but it would be hard to wait till then! Meanwhile, the family would have to wait out the long winter months inside the house in front of a roaring, cheerful fire, amusing themselves the best they could. . . .

I shivered again and brought myself back to the present. It wasn't hard for me to realize how isolated it must have been for the





*Photo by Thomas V. Miller, Jr.*

FARMINGTON AS IT LOOKED IN 1949



Speeds during the winter, with their environment nothing but a wilderness.

I walked into my new home, my heart filled with anticipation, visualizing the future results of perhaps several months' hard work to come. I knew that it would take devotion, imagination, inspiration, and lots of elbow grease, along with study, to transform this bare, uninviting mansion into the warm, hospitable home it was meant to be.

As I slammed the door, the wind gave an extra burst, making the leaves swirl from room to room in a sort of haughty dance.

The sound of a rap on the door aroused me from my building of air castles, and I hastened to the door with the expectation of letting in one of the movers. Much to my surprise, standing in the doorway was the young man who had just purchased our old home on Clarendon Avenue! I was amazed to see him, for I knew that he was just as busy moving as we were. Then, with the unimportant reason for his coming put aside, he let me know that he had always dreamed of a home like Farmington, and, with this gentle hint, I knew of his great desire to see the house. Even in the state of confusion and need for repairs, the beautiful appearance of the house was not lessened because of the beauty and the originality of its architectural design.

Showing this man our new home, and hearing his unhidden comments of admiration and appreciation for each room he saw, filled me with a new sense of anticipation.

Soon, however, his visit had to come to an end, for he was needed to complete moving operations at his own new home.



*Photo by Charlotte Battle Everbach*

## WINTER AT FARMINGTON 1957

## CHAPTER II

During the following week, I found myself filled with many doubts about our new home. I wondered how we would ever get it clean enough and in fit enough shape in which to live. At times I felt terribly discouraged, for those first days were spent in nothing but hard work. At night, Bob, Porter, and I would wearily fall onto the mattresses which were piled in the back bedroom, also filled with part of our furniture. However, all in all, our spirits were kept high by Bob's inspiration. Even though we had not yet started distributing our furniture to the various rooms, we had a brilliantly lit Christmas tree in one bedroom window, surrounded by furniture.

The following week, my spirits were lifted and I was thrilled with the result of the completion of the front bedroom. Bob had taken this room as his own special project and had finished its decoration within two weeks. The room was done in a beautiful shade of blue with blending curtains, rugs, and bedspreads as accessories. The sight of that room gave me inspiration to go on working on the rest of the house; for Bob had told me that any time I felt discouraged, to go and look at that room and to know that one day the rest of the house would look as lovely as it did then.

And how right he was!! Gradually, the rest of the house began to shape up and soon we began to move our furniture to the rooms where it belonged, working on this by the trial-and-error method. We worked on one room at a time, with Bob doing the designing and placing of furniture and Porter and I using a lot of elbow grease, too.

The colors of the rooms were done in colors as close to the original ones as possible. It is interesting to know how these colors were found.

Before we bought Farmington, it had been owned by a farmer for forty years, and before him, the owner had been another farmer who had also owned it for forty years. This farmer was Farmington's fifth owner. He had loved it dearly, but his greatest interest had lain in the excellent soil and its ability to produce such bountiful crops.

During the years that Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tyler, the sixth owners, had owned Farmington, the house had no central heating system (there are fireplaces in each room) and no plumbing whatsoever.

The Tylers did not live at Farmington, but, with considerable help, put in plumbing and a fine heating system. Of course, when installing this heating system, the original plaster was chipped in order to put in new electric wiring. They also did the task above all tasks which was to steam all the wallpaper off the walls, in that way the original colors were brought to light.

When we moved to Farmington we felt relieved that this was already done and that we could start from scratch on the color scheme. We found that all the walls had been tinted in the very first years of their existence, with the exception of the beautiful front hallway which still contained a swatch of the first paper.

Bob, using his interior decorating knowledge and skill, studied each color and did each room according to its original color scheme. In some cases, the color was duplicated, and in others, he used his own good judgment.

There are very few people who have ever seen anything like the original hangers in two of the bedroom closets. They usually exclaim that even present builders could well copy them, for they are so accommodating. Also much comment has been made about the two-tiered cupboards that are so wide and deep and can store so many trunks. The four window panes on either side of the front doorway are hinged and have always been hinged since the beginning days of Farmington. Many persons have questioned whether the floors are the original ones, but Mr. Cowgar, who was the curator in the Williamsburg restoration, heartily agreed with Mr. Smith that they were original. Mr. Smith saw in the beginning the marks of slave labor where they had hacked the under side of the flooring with hatchets to level them.

### CHAPTER III

The blustery start we had on moving day didn't continue, but the weather turned surprisingly mild for January. This change in weather made it possible for us to start on the outside work, including raking the acre of ground which surrounded the house.

Leaves had been allowed to accumulate on the ground for four years, and the dead branches in most of the trees had remained lodged between the limbs.

Although we were working on the outside, the work was progressing on the inside as well. A crew of six to eight plasterers were patch-plastering the rooms while one painter and one paper hanger and two floor sanders did their individual jobs. These men seemed to enjoy working together and their happy chattering at lunch time threw a gay mood throughout the house.

On the outside, however, the work proved most unpleasant, due to an unexpected result from our labors.

The "outdoors crew," which consisted of the farmer and myself, began to clear the lawn of the decaying leaves, molded and packed down several layers deep on the ground. As we raked the leaves into piles to throw onto the farm truck brought for this purpose, I noticed the tendrils from a different plant amongst the leaves. They whipped around my ankles many times during the course of the day, but they received no attention from me until the next day when I awoke with a lovely case of poison ivy. The farmer was, of course, immune to this plant, and never thought to tell me of my danger. So, from that day on, the farmer's job was to rid the lawn of poison ivy!

After the lawn was made presentable, our attention was focused upon the inside work.

Piles of old plaster were dumped onto the back lawn in order to proceed with the new paper work. One paper hanger, who worked on a swing shift at DuPont's, was hired for all the paper hanging, and he came and went as he could work it into his own schedule. Therefore, we never knew when to expect him to work, and often he worked late into the evening. So, you see, we were busy almost 24 hours a day!



Even though we worked most of the day, we got our strength from our high outlook. It seemed that our enthusiasm was contagious, for the workmen carried on with that same happy attitude throughout the entirety of their job.

During the course of each day we were interrupted by many prominent visitors whom we now cherish as the guiding stars which have led to the formation of the Historical Homes Foundation. We feel that by word of mouth these first visitors built the interest and enthusiasm in Farmington. These people weren't, for the most part, just passing tourists or sightseers, but were familiar and important faces to the people of Louisville—civic-minded people who were always looking for something that would mark the progress of Louisville.

Some of the outstanding ones were the owner of our own newspapers, the then president of the Filson Club, the president of the museum, and the dean of the School of Music and his wife, who wrote *The Tall Kentuckian*.<sup>\*</sup> She sent out the main actors, promoters, music composers, set designers, and critics to see Farmington.

You can well see that the visitors were not only people who were interested in history, but people who were just interested in seeing the house. The American Guide Book in which Farmington is listed brought a great many from the East and the West knocking at our door—landscape architects and newspaper publishers from here and from afar.

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<sup>\*</sup> *The Tall Kentuckian* was a pageant given in commemoration of Louisville Founding Fathers Day and was presented for three weeks at Iroquois Gardens Amphitheatre at Louisville.

## CHAPTER IV

During the years that Farmington was our home, we shared it with the public on many occasions, and we became more and more convinced that it was not just an ordinary home. Often we had opportunities to sell Farmington, but we felt that it was our duty to protect it from the hammer of a development company.

I never could refuse to share Farmington with any worthy group that desired it. School children, garden clubs, civic groups, and conventions have taken tours of the house, their reaction being that Farmington should be a shrine. The Glenview Garden Club's Flower Exhibit was held several months after the house was sold to the Historic Society, along with the opening day of the Kentucky State House and Garden Tour.

During these tours and visits many remarks of value had been made, showing the historic value of the home. Mrs. Archibald Cochran once said of the two octagonal rooms, "My! Don't they just seem to put their arms around you!" The head of the New York Historical Society said of the architecture after touring the house, "Undoubtedly, this is the handsomest anywhere around!"

The remark was made that the half oval pilasters on the porch were very rare. Usually these pilasters are found to be half round or half square. However, the most usual exclamation is about the three fanned windows over the doorways in succession through the hall. Much interest is shown in the secret stairway and the beautiful front hallway. Many people are surprised, however, to find no open stairway, which is usual in homes of this period and size.

The people who are definitely interested in historical homes, and devote their time to the study of such things, usually say that they feel the Jefferson influence very strongly—they feel as though they were walking around in an atmosphere created by Jefferson. At this point during their tour of Farmington, people usually ask where the house got its name. The original Farmington was located at Charlottesville, Va., and was owned by the uncle of Lucy Gilmore Frye Speed, who married Judge Speed. This uncle lived there for many years. He was a close friend of Thomas Jefferson, and it was through



*Photo by Charlotte Battle Everbach*

REMODELED SUMMER KITCHEN 1957



him that Thomas Jefferson designed Farmington in Louisville. The Farmington in Charlottesville is now an outstanding country club of the area.

Sometimes interesting facts are unfolded concerning how long a stone step, walk, or a gate has been in its place. Often approximate dates for their existence are established—for instance, the front brick walk. During the presentation of *The Tall Kentuckian*, Mrs. Kirby Stoll, a descendant of the Drescher family (the family which bought Farmington from the Speed family and owned it for forty years) brought a Century Magazine dated 1887 showing that there was a front walkway which had been there in 1886. Of course, this front walk was a surprise to us, for when we bought Farmington it was entirely covered with grass and could not be seen at all.

At the same time that Mrs. Stoll brought the Century Magazine, she also brought a pewter plate that had been found by the Drescher family under the stairway and had been left by the Speed family. The plate is marked on the back with the seal of a German company which made such plates in the 1700's.

Other remnants of the Speed family china and crystal have been found lately by a committee which had permission to dig beside an old plum tree by the old summer kitchen. Bits of three different patterns of china, which are thought to be English china, were found and are being studied by researchers. Much more will be unearthed later.



*Photo by John E. Thierman*

COACH HOUSE

## CHAPTER V

After living for over nine wonderful years in Farmington, we realized that we had done all that we could for the house. We were completely satisfied to spend the rest of our days there, but Porter, Bob, and I had always had the understanding that the only way that we would consider selling Farmington was upon the promise that it would be made into a shrine. Everyone, including myself, was convinced that some day the house should be open to the public; and so when Anne Bruce Haldeman called me one winter evening, and asked me if we would consider selling Farmington as a landmark, I knew that it was the beginning of a long series of plans that would soon reach the goal set for the house.

She asked me to set a minimum price for the house so that she could start soliciting for contributions, and after conferring with Bob and Porter, I gave her my answer. Immediately afterwards, with no hesitation, Miss Haldeman set out to talk with the many people who were interested in the future of Farmington.

Like all plans involving so many people and run on such a large scale, decisions don't come as quickly as they do when they involve only one person. So you might say that the next year was spent with one question in our minds—Will they or won't they? The article headed, "Who Can Save Farmington?" by Grady Clay came out in the Louisville newspaper and aroused the interest and concern of the local public. We had many curious visitors and many inquiries after that.

It took the greater part of a year for the group to make the decision and to conclude that a corporation would be formed. Soon after that meeting a corporation known as Historic Homes Foundation was formed, and work began towards the purchase and restoration of the house on January 14, 1958, the day the papers were signed.

Progress was made slowly because of the deep and careful research which was necessary to keep everything about the house authentic. An old inventory was found in the courthouse upon the suggestion of Dr. Walter Creese who had been so helpful to the foundation and to us. The discovery of this inventory was most enlightening, for it listed all items, not only of the house but of the

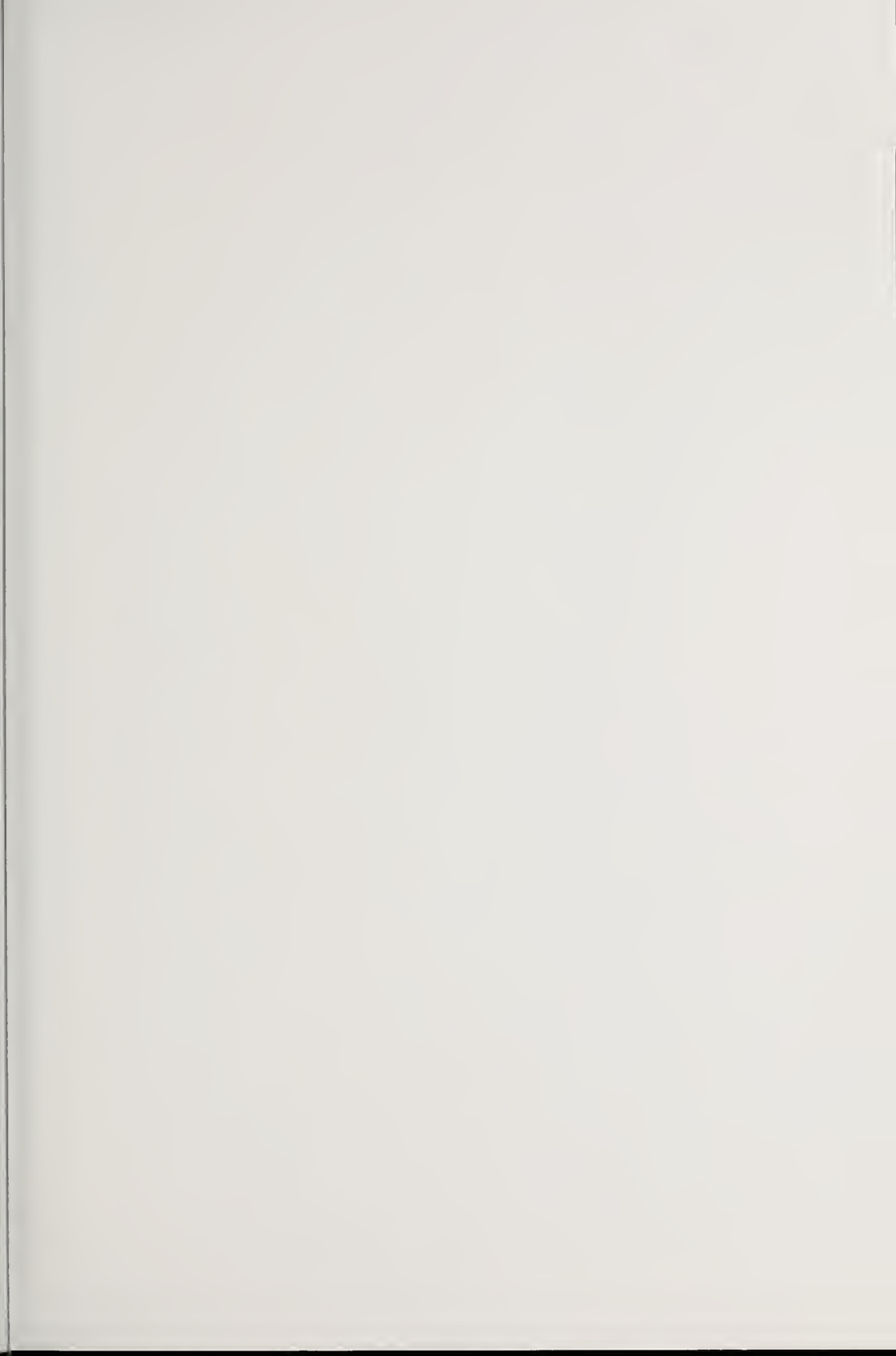
farm buildings, that were present in 1840. This presented a good outline of the furnishings to be acquired.

Also found in the courthouse was a map showing the placement of all the outlying buildings, even showing the location of the family graveyard. Some day, the Foundation plans to restore all of these buildings to their original locations.

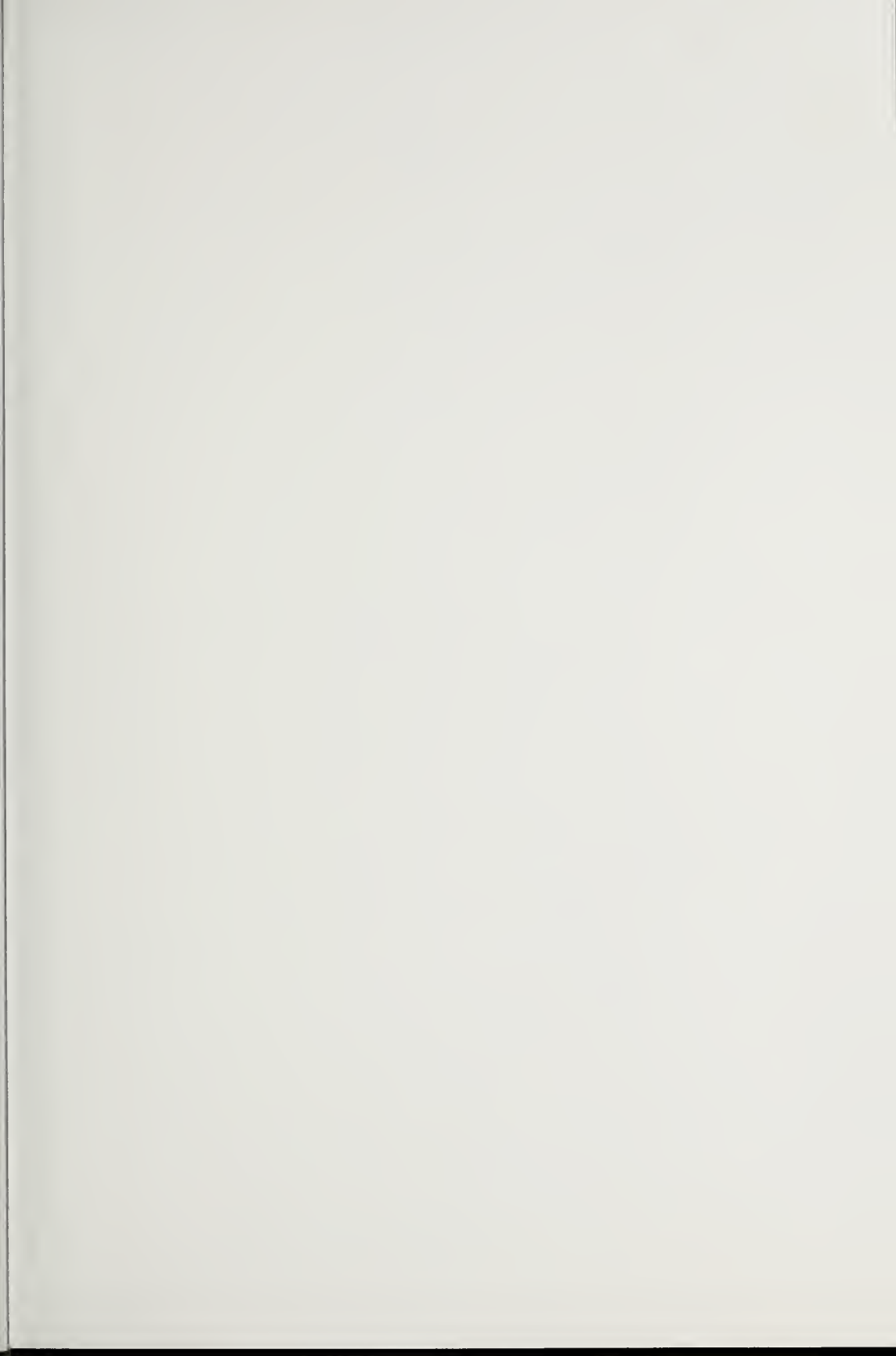
With this slow and tedious beginning, it is surprising how quickly the tides turned. Suddenly, it seemed, new developments came about and things began jumping. With this sudden spurt of activity, so many accomplishments were made that it would be hard to name them all here. One accomplishment was the removal of the modern radiators from each room; another, the removal of the coal baskets from three of the fireplaces. Each room has been scraped free of wallpaper down to its original color again, and painters are busy applying the last coats of these colors.

The house will soon be ready to accept its first visitors on its formal opening. This eventful opening day will be April 18, 1959. The pageant will start with a re-enactment of Abraham Lincoln's visit to Farmington. The Ohio River will be the opening scene where a present-day Lincoln will fold his lanky frame into a carriage to be transported from the river in a colorful parade to Farmington. Descendants of the original Speed family will welcome him and all visitors will be served punch made from an old Speed recipe. A group of players from the Louisville Orchestra and singers from the Atherton High School chorus will provide music from *The Tall Kentuckian*.

And so we now look forward to that day, April 18, 1959, which will be the "Fulfillment of a Dream" both for us and for the Historic Homes Foundation—the day that will make this dream a reality that will be dear to the hearts of many for years to come.











# FARMINGTON

*Designed By  
Thomas Jefferson*



*Built 1810*



# FARMINGTON

*Designed By  
Thomas Jefferson*



*Built 1810*

Louisville, Kentucky

Bardstown Road near Intersection with Watterson Expressway



the owners' careful eyes. In 1810 the house was completed.

Both John and Lucy had been brought to Kentucky from Virginia as children. Lucy's parents were Joshua and Peachy Walker Fry. Through both the Fry family and the Walkers there were close ties with Thomas Jefferson, and it is probably because of Lucy's Virginia connections that a Jeffersonian design was chosen for the Speed house.

#### THOMAS JEFFERSON'S PLANS

In the Coolidge Collection of Jefferson Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston the floor plans used for Farmington may be seen. Examination of these plans shows that the local builder employed by Judge Speed took few liberties with the original design for a house in the Federal style and that such adaptations as were found advisable were handled with fine intelligence.

The most Jeffersonian features of the design are two octagonal rooms set back to back in the

central portion of the house. Fanlights over interior as well as exterior doors and the suppressed stairway placed at the rear of the long through-hall are other characteristic details. The spacious rooms of the principal floor have 14-foot ceilings.

A secret stair, adventurously narrow and steep, tucked away between the main hall and the ground floor, provided means of escape in case of Indian marauders, and gives today's school children a sense of history. Ruined walls of a small fort, a few yards to the south of the house, lend acceptance to legendary tales of a connecting tunnel between the secret stairway and the fort.

These reminders of hazards confronted by our forebears are in dramatic contrast to the exquisite refinement of hand work seen in Farmington's reeded doorways, in delicate fanlights and cabinet work, and interesting Adamesque mantels. The rococo mantel in one of the octagonal rooms attracts much interest because of the decorative motifs inspired by the American and French revivals.

Standing at the end of a quarter-mile, tree-lined lane off Bardstown Road, its classic portico half hidden by splendid trees, the house gradually discloses its charms to the approaching visitor. In imagination one can all but hear the friendly talk and children's laughter that filled these rooms, can almost smell the fragrant garden and taste the delicious peaches and cream that Abraham Lincoln sent down the pages of history with his vivid praise.

# FARMINGTON

*Built by John and Lucy Fry Speed*

IN THE EARLY YEARS of the nineteenth century Kentucky's landscape blossomed in swift transition from primitive log cabins to mansions of Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival architecture. No house more gracefully embodies the creative talents of this rich period than Farmington, the Jeffersonian house built by John and Lucy Fry Speed on their 1500-acre tract of woodland and meadow south of Louisville.

The deed to the property, signed by Patrick Henry, is dated 1780. Judge John Speed and Lucy Gilmer Fry were married in 1808. It is not known exactly when the work of building was begun. It is believed that the Speeds, with two little daughters by Judge Speed's former marriage, lived in a cabin on the place while the work was in progress so that the hewing of ash and poplar timbers, the burning of bricks, and the delicate carving of woods went forward under

*Designed By  
Thomas Jefferson*

*Built 1810*



## THE SPEED FAMILY

At Farmington Judge Speed administered a plantation of 500 acres and directed the training and work of more than 70 slaves. He was, however, an ardent and outspoken emancipationist and accepted the institution of slavery only as a temporary necessity.

The 14-room house proved to be none too large for the family it was to shelter. Over the years 10 children were born to John and Lucy Speed and grew up to become distinguished citizens. The house was continually a haven for visiting friends and relatives, the scope of its generosity being indicated by stories of a German musician, Anton Heinrich, who once came for a visit and stayed no less than a year, and of a company of volunteers for the War of 1812 who not only enjoyed the hospitality of Farmington but went away loaded with choice provisions.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN, FRIEND AND GUEST

If ever a family deserved to have Abraham Lincoln for a friend and a guest in their home, it was the family of John and Lucy Speed. Born and bred under a roof where clear thinking and warm relationships prevailed, Joshua, the second son, during four years of residence in Springfield, Illinois, became the closest friend of the young lawyer, Abraham Lincoln. When Joshua returned to his home in Louisville, he invited Lincoln to visit him.

Distressed because of a break in his relations with Mary Todd and seriously in need of rest, Lincoln arrived at Farmington on August 19, 1841, for a stay of three weeks. One regrets that Judge Speed, who had died the year before, could not have had the satisfaction of matching heart and wit with his son's friend, but his widow and children were more than equal to carrying on the Farmington tradition of hospitality.

Every reader of *Lincolnia* knows the double love story that began soon after Lincoln's arrival as he became involved in the ups and downs of Joshua's romance with Fanny Henning. Encouraging and advising his friend, the physician was eventually healing himself. Physically and emotionally rejuvenated, Lincoln went back to Illinois to resume, with fresh vigor the course leading to his great destiny. His engagement to Mary Todd was renewed and they were married on November 4, 1842.

Most endearing of intimate bread-and-butter letters is that written by Lincoln to Mary Speed following the Farmington stay. And the inscription written twenty years later on the photograph Lincoln sent Mrs. Speed from the White House

recalls the Bible she gave him as he left Farmington.

Throughout Lincoln's years as President he repeatedly summoned Joshua Speed to the White House for consultations. Joshua's older brother, James, who served as Attorney General, was at Lincoln's bedside when he died.

## FARMINGTON INVITES YOU

Historic Homes Foundation acquired Farmington in 1957, the formal opening to the public in April, 1959, being timed as part of the sesquicentennial celebration of the birth in Hodgenville, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, of Farmington's most celebrated guest, Abraham Lincoln.

Extensive research preceded every detail of restoration and the choice of every object of furniture and decoration. In the authentic recreation already completed is eloquent promise of the results to be expected as further furnishing is perfected, as gardens and small plantation buildings are restored.

## AT JUNCTION OF HIGHWAYS

When Judge Speed built his house, Louisville was a small city six miles away. Now the city has extended south to embrace Farmington. Look for Farmington's pink-and-black sign at the foot of its lane just off the intersection of Bardstown Road with Watterson Expressway (I-264). The map below shows convenient accessibility to other routes.

## DAYS AND HOURS

Farmington is open every day except Mondays, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The hours are from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Sundays 2-5.



HISTORIC HOMES FOUNDATION, INC.

3033 Bardstown Road, Louisville 5, Ky.





THE  
*Farmington*  
*Country Store*

1 8 1 0 F 1 9 5 9

*Articles for sale at the historic home of  
John Speed, built in 1810, designed by  
Thomas Jefferson, visited by Lincoln.*

HISTORIC HOMES  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
3033 BARDSTOWN ROAD  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY



# FARMINGTON

*Designed by Thomas Jefferson — Built 1810*



Many people have been alarmed that in the clamor of inexorable progress, the past is being too hastily swept away. Americans everywhere are awakening to the fact that we must preserve and restore our historic landmarks, not only for the present but for the coming generations to lovingly appreciate the past which has so largely contributed to our present and must continue to be imbued in our future.

*Located N.E. Corner Watterson Expressway and Bardstown Road. Open to Public: Sundays 2 P.M. - 5 P.M. Weekdays 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Except Mondays. Admission: Adults 50 cents, Children 25 cents.*



THE  
*Farmington*  
*Country Store*

1 8 1 0 **F** 1 9 5 9

*Articles for sale at the historic home of  
John Speed, built in 1810, designed by  
Thomas Jefferson, visited by Lincoln.*

HISTORIC HOMES  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
3033 BARDSTOWN ROAD  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY





# PRICE LIST

## Farm Products

Old Fashioned Corn Meal	2 lbs. \$	.50
Exclusively for Farmington	5 lbs.	1.25
Water Ground at Wolf Pen Mill		
Old Kentucky Hams	per lb.	\$1.35
1½ to 2 years (12 to 16 lbs.)		

## Preserves, Pickles, Jellies

Strawberry Jam	8 oz.	.50
Glen Dean Pickle	8 oz.	.50
Grape and other Jellies	8 oz.	.50
Fruit Cake at Christmas time	per lb.	1.50

## Plants

Rooted Boxwoods, in pots (semper virens)		.50
Kentucky Mint for Juleps		.35
Herbs in season		.35

## Books and Documents

Historical documents connected with the history of Farmington

Facsimile on Vellum

Deed to Farmington signed by Patrick Henry		.50
Sayings of Thomas Jefferson		.50
Farmington Chapter in the Lincoln Story by Barbara Henderson		.50
"FARMINGTON" by Dorothy Clark		1.00

Illustrated by Malcolm Grear

*For further information of a design by John C. Hill and Jacob F. Smith 1952*

## Reproductions & Antiques

Authentic Early American Fabrics

Handwoven 2 Silks 2 Velvet 2 18th Century

22 Candlewick Bedspreads, 22

Brass and Hand Forged Iron

Williamsburg and other Colonial designs

Andirons, trivets, candlesticks, etc.

Pine Wall Racks made in the mountains

Handmade Bowls of wood \$2.00

## Baskets

Handwoven Kentucky Baskets

Many shapes and kinds \$1.00 to \$5.00

Make checks to Historic Homes, Inc., 3033 Bards-town Road, Louisville, Ky.

Purchaser's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to ☐ Card enclosed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Pottery

Handmade original designs

by Mary Alice Hadley

Farmington Plate, 9" (our design)	\$3.00
Farmington Ash Tray	1.25
Casserole with cover, 3 qt.	4.50
Casserole with cover, 5 qt.	9.00
Cookie Jar	5.00
Herb Jar with cover	2.00
Ring Holder	.50
Jiggers	.50
Knife Sharpener	1.50
Flower Pots	1.50

(This is only a small list of the many items.

A full list on request).

## Pot Pourri & Scents

Pot Pourri from Southern Gardens packed in glass jars and plastic boxes \$1.00 to \$3.75

Sachet for linens .50

Fragrances of many varieties

Eau de Cologne, soaps

## Brooms

Berea Brooms, handmade in Kentucky Mountains.

All sizes and shapes for hearth and home

\$1.00 to \$3.75

(Mail orders accepted. Postage added to prices above)

## *The Farmington Country Store*

In one of the rooms at Farmington, there is a small shop where attractive articles of Kentucky origin are for sale. Many are hand-made or homewoven and might have been sold in a store at the time Farmington was built in 1810.

This shop is operated by Historic Homes to help in the support of Farmington and to offer for sale to visitors some interesting products of Kentucky.

The various jams and pickles are made from treasured old recipes in the kitchens of Farmington's sponsors.

The hams are sugar cured, hickory smoked and aged  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 years. Each step in their preparation is carefully taken to insure excellent results. Kentucky hams are produced from corn fed hogs. They have a rich and distinctive flavor.

The water ground corn meal is ground exclusively for Farmington at nearby Wolf Pen Mill. This famous water mill has been in operation since the days of earliest settlers. Hadley Pottery is made in Louisville by the nationally known Mary Alice Hadley, famous for her originality and designs.

*Farmington*  
3033 Bardstown Road  
Louisville, Ky.

To

# FARMINGTON

*Designed by Thomas Jefferson — Built 1810*



Many people have been alarmed that in the clamor of inexorable progress, the past is being too hastily swept away. Americans everywhere are awakening to the fact that we must preserve and restore historic landmarks, not only for the present but for the coming generations to lovingly appreciate the past which has so largely contributed to our present and must continue to be imbued in our future.

*Located N.E. Corner Watterson Expressway and Bardstown Road. Open to Public: Sundays 2 P.M. - 5 P.M. Weekdays 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. Except Mondays. Admission: Adults 50 cents, Children 25 cents.*

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A. Read Henry	



In 1956 Historic Homes Foundation was formed by a group of public-minded citizens for the purpose of buying Farmington, the historic home built by John Speed in 1810. It was here, during one of the most critical periods of his life, that Lincoln visited his friend, Joshua Speed.

Enough funds were secured to make an initial payment of principal and interest and the house and four acres were deeded to the foundation. Research, vitally needed repairs, and restoration were begun.

In 1959 a generous gift from an anonymous donor provided the inspiration for a successful drive for the establishment of an Endowment Fund, the continued growth of which will insure the preservation of Farmington for future generations.

Farmington depends on its friends for maintenance, through memberships, admissions, and income from its gift shop. Every dollar counts for much remains to be done in restoration and refurnishing so that Farmington may closely resemble its original form.

We value the help you have given in the past and will be grateful for an expression of your further interest. Will you help by renewing your membership or becoming a member? A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Contributions are deductible for Federal and State Income Tax purposes.





## Wonderful Town

## Speed Clan Will Go

# Lincoln-Visit Pagear

## Descendants to play first owners of Farmington for the ceremony, opening house as historic shrine

**By Glee Durand Crutcher**

THERE'LL be a gathering of the clan this afternoon at Farmington, historic home of pioneer Louisvillians Judge and Mrs. John Speed. Farmington was built in 1810.

Descendants of the Speeds will be rehearsing for the pageant to be held next Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock, which will mark the official opening of Farmington by the Historic Homes Foundation.

The dedication ceremonies will include a re-enactment of the arrival of Abraham Lincoln in 1841 for the three-week visit with his close friend, Joshua Frye Speed, son of the owner.

Joshua will be played by John Sackett Speed, his great-great-nephew, and Morton Joyes will portray Lincoln. They'll arrive at the portico in a carriage of the period, lent by the Byron Hilliards, pulled by two white horses, Mimi and Pete, lent by Warner Jones, Jr.

There Speed and Lincoln will be greeted by members of the family.

Mrs. J. Brian McCormick will portray Mrs. Speed, wearing a black taffeta with a heirloom lace fichu and lace cap that belonged to her grandmother. Joan (Mrs. Bosworth, Jr.) Todd will portray Miss Fanny Henning, who was being courted by Joshua in 1841. She later married him.

## Letter Is Displa

Katherine (Mrs. Cl  
be Mary Speed, the el  
one to whom Lincoln  
letter after he returne  
copy of this letter is on

Among other descendants who will play the part of the family are Mr. and Mrs. Douglas (Mrs. Clara Woodford, Jr.), Janie, Margaret, and Edna (Mrs. Cyrus Woodford, Jr.), Nina (Mrs. Cyrus Woodford, Jr.), Ward, and cousins Larry Crutcher, Woodford Semple, and Jean Wardpageant, which will be the portico of the house.

String players of the orchestra will perform under the direction of Eugene Feltz, director of the music, and 30 members of the High School chorus will sing.

After the brief pageant, the president of the Historical Society will present keys to the mansion to Bruce Hoblitzell, County Commissioner, and Dr. Philip Davidson, University of Louisville. The city officials, Dr. Davidson and the mayor, will then visit the mansion, built for the late Jefferson, will then be closed.

Punch will be served in gowns of the period. Mr. Anderson and Alberta (Mrs.) are chairmen of the program.

Moritz Bomhard is acting  
tumes.



Courier-Journal Photo

of the Woodford Dulaney, Jr., are among descendants of the John Speeds  
play members of the Speed family in a pageant at Farmington Saturday.  
Margaret, 3½, and Jane, 7½, will dress up in early 19th Century costumes.





### **'Lincoln' Revisits Farmington**

Recapturing the scene of 1841 when Lincoln visited Farmington, are Morton Joyes (in dark suit) as the President; John S. Speed, Mrs. J. Brian McCormick, and Larry Crutcher (right). The visit was to be re-enacted at 2 p.m. today at the historic home near Bardstown Road and Watterson Expressway.



Courier-Journal Photo

ON . . . Abraham Lincoln, por-  
waits as John Sackett Speed  
d, Jr., from a carriage in front  
Speed home, Farmington. Lin-

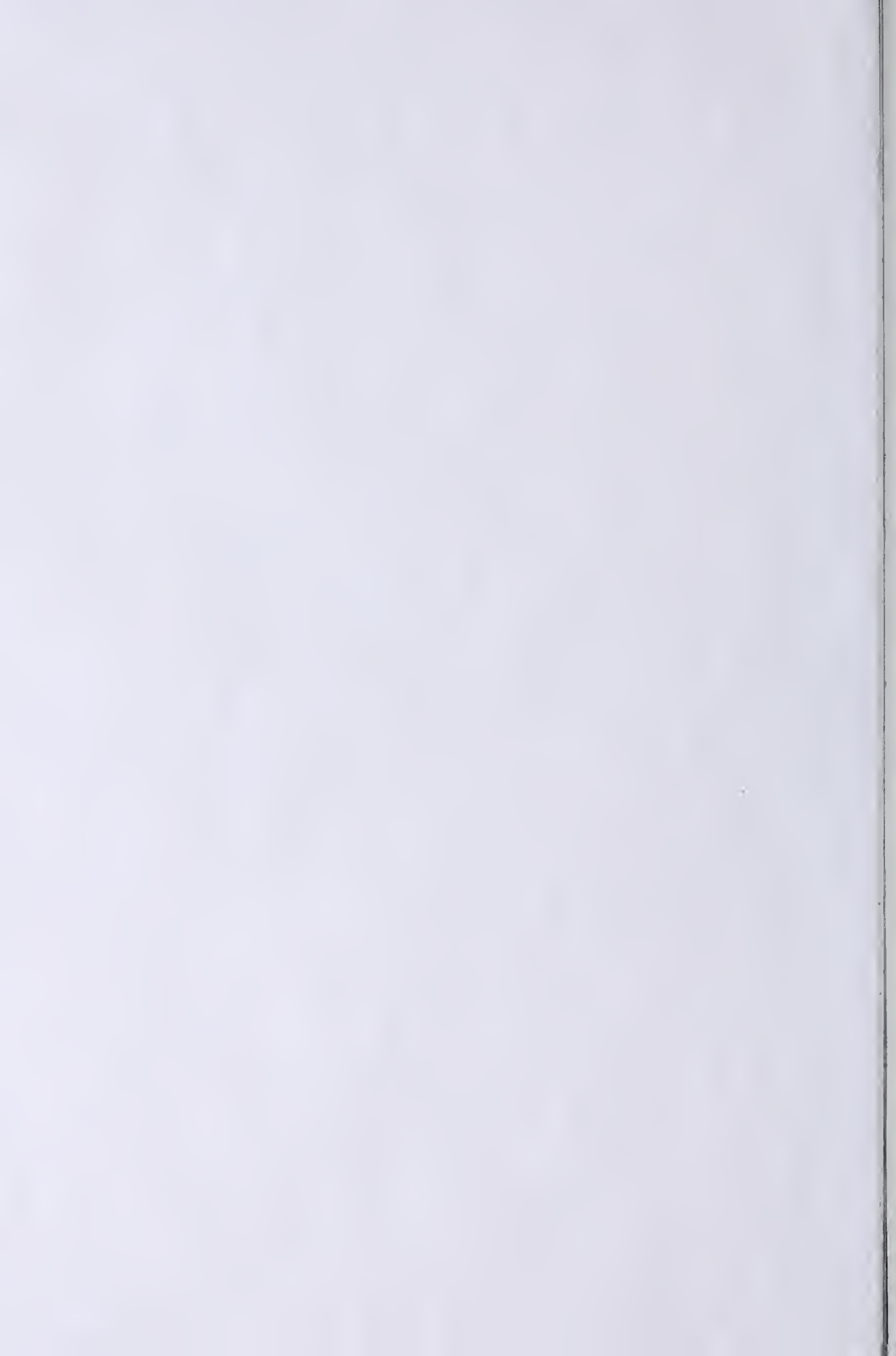
coln's 1841 visit to the home on Bardstown Road was  
re-enacted yesterday during dedication of Farmington as  
a shrine open to the public. Carriage driver is Johnny  
Nix, Jr., Pewee Valley. A story is on Page 10.



The Louisville Times  
Louisville, Kentucky  
April 14, 1959



In front of one of the many fireplaces in the 14-room house is Polly Cochran. Farmington was restored by Historic Homes Foundation after extensive research.





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Louisville, Kentucky  
April 14, 1959

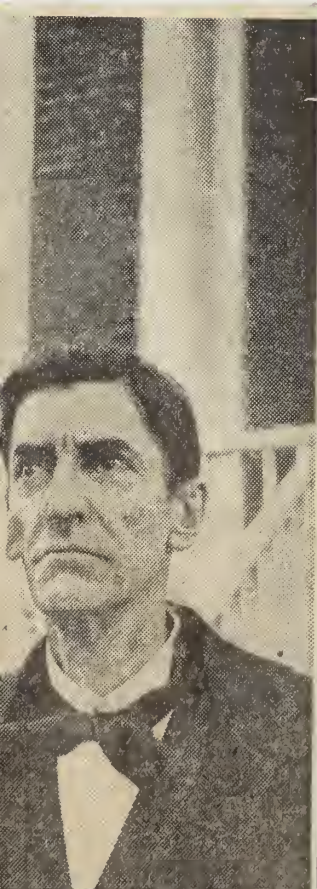
# FARMIN

These pictures show  
for the formal op  
Saturday of home  
Road and Watter

TIMES PHOTO STORY







Lincoln views a book in a room at Farmington with John Ward (left) and Charles Sample.



The Story is Almost Patent - How Abraham Lincoln and Jos  
became friends-close, intimate personal friend  
Perhaps it is because of this friendship beginning in Ap  
Springfield, Illinois and ending in April 1865  
and year of Lincoln's assassination, that we a  
here today.

"Farmington" - this palatial home built about the year o  
birth is re-dedicated today because of that "i  
Lincoln once said "That the better part of one's life co  
his friendships".

"Farmington" may mean many things to many people with it

1. large rooms
2. high ceilings and its
3. deep casements of the finest hardwood

To some people it is an example of fine architecture -  
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To some people it is a shrine to a great Louisville fami  
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But to many people - It is a shrine to two men - one the  
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contemplating matrimony

Lincoln had undergone an emotional crisis on January 1, 1840  
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and

Speed could not get over "those heavenly black eyes"  
of Fanny Henning.

Fanny on February 15, 1842

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HOME OF JOSHUA FRY SPEED, LOUISVILLE, KY.

, the intimate friend of Lincoln sold his store in  
Jan. 1, 1841-- the day Lincoln was to have married  
and went to Louisville to live. "About the first week in  
318) Lincoln began a much enjoyed visit with the Speed  
regained his poise. *He occupied* ~~Lincoln~~ the front corner room at the

( Br 1. p. 318 ),



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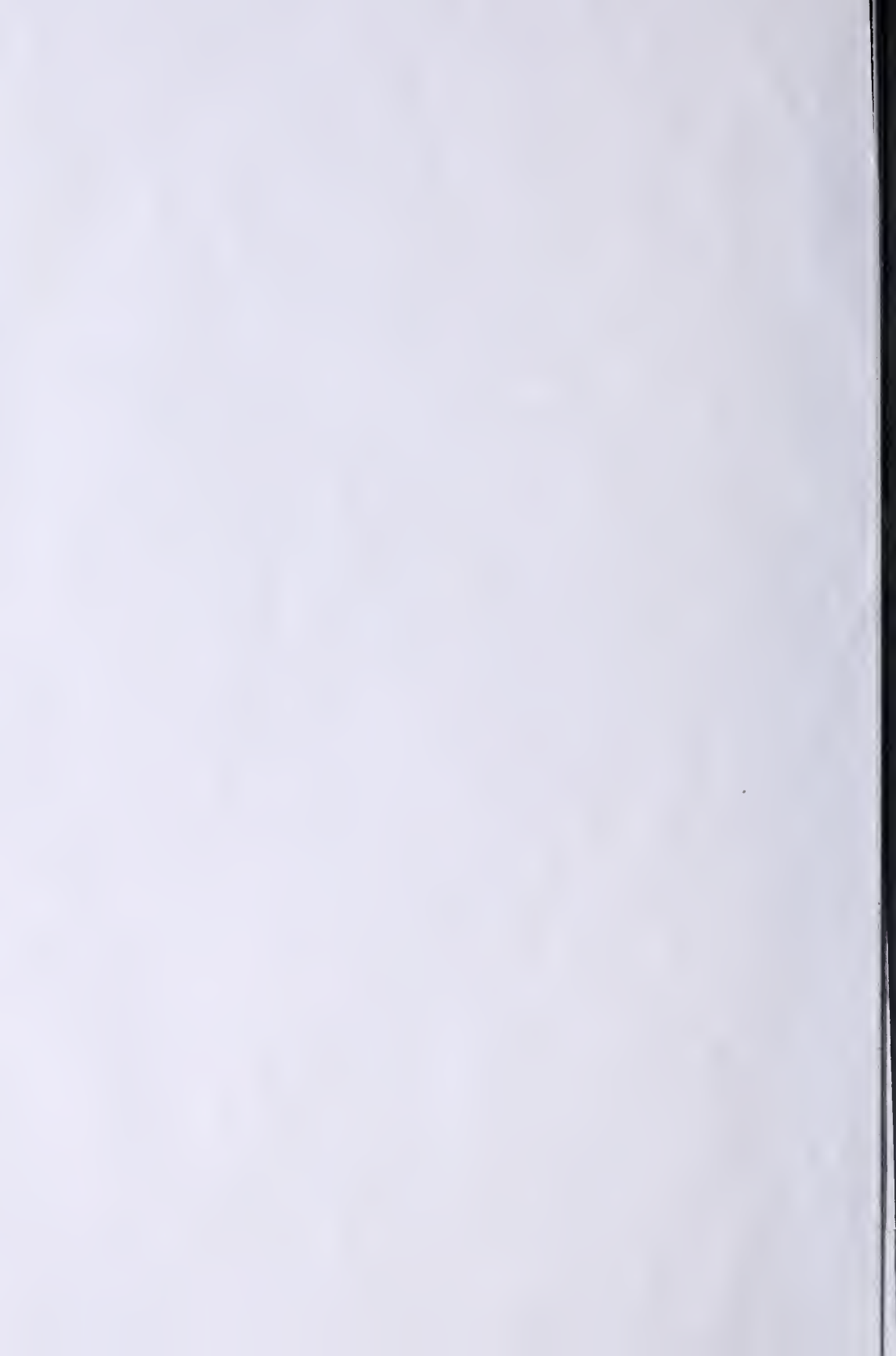
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# FARMINGTON

*Designed By  
Thomas Jefferson*



*Built 1810*

**Louisville, Kentucky**

**Bardstown Road near Intersection with Watterson Expressway**

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HISTORIC HOMES FOUNDATION, INC.



### *A Report to the Membership:*

It has been an exciting year at Farmington and we hope to share with each member the joy of seeing this historic house and its surrounding grounds mellow and bloom again as in its earliest days. We depend on all of you for a share in its support and look forward to the day when our slowly growing Endowment Fund will bring us the secure feeling that Farmington will be safeguarded for future generations.

In the past year an eighteenth century garden has been reconstructed with the generous help of many kind friends. Beautiful box plants have been given to outline the walks, and copies of eighteenth century garden furniture invite the visitor to tarry under the large shade trees.

Within the main house the drawing room has been furnished with a fine American sofa of mahogany, made by Stover and Taylor in New York City about 1790. Martha Washington chairs lend their charm to either side of the fireplace. Curtains of the period have been hung at the windows. A painting called "The Lesson", by an unknown artist of the Boston School has been given by a friend.

Farmington Museum has come into the possession of a desk, known to have been used by John James Audubon with a note bearing his initials. This interesting gift came as a memorial to one of Louisville's leading citizens. A small tripod table, made at Shakertown, has also been given to the museum.

Our Farmington store has grown tremendously and is a constant source of delight to the many school children, cub scouts, and brownies who come to see us. The store continues to add new and attractive gifts for adults as well as restocking old favorites. We feel sure that you will enjoy browsing.

We have been most fortunate in securing the services of an official hostess. Although our list of volunteer hostesses now numbers 175 women who give generously of their time, the demand grows daily for more volunteers who are representative of the mistresses of Farmington in its heyday and who can welcome visitors and make them feel that this is a home restored, where people lived and children played. We have found the need of a full time person in charge of all of this activity at Farmington most essential.

Our publicity has been invaluable. We have won national recognition through the generosity of the Ford Motor Company, the Buick Division of General Motors, the Louisville and Nashville Railway Company, the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times, and WAVE, WHAS, and WKYW Radio Stations.

In August there was a most interesting exhibit of antique dolls which brought many visitors. In the fall a showing of antique fabrics, used in famous historical houses

of America, including the White House, was held in the long hall. Christmas at Farmington was also a gala event, with the addition this year of a Christmas tree upon demand by the very young visitors.

But most exciting of all, the plans have been completed and the foundation poured for the first Dependency to be restored at Farmington — a blacksmith shop complete with forge and tools which we know will be of great interest to both young and old.

The four great chimneys have been restored. We were in constant fear of their falling through the roof and this has seemed to us to require our immediate consideration.

The bridge over the road leading into Farmington has been rebuilt.

The State of Kentucky has granted us permission to place Farmington signs along the main highways leading into Louisville. We feel certain that because of these highway markers, many tourists have come to Farmington who otherwise would have passed us by.

Research has continued on the remains of the old stone building in the field to the right of the house. We hope to work on the restoration of this building within the coming year. Several other old stone buildings of identical type have been located within a radius of a few miles of each other, and this construction may have been peculiar to this section of Kentucky. If so, its restoration as part of Farmington and as an architectural contribution is extremely important.

A most valuable topographical map of the property has been made along with aerial photographs from which we hope to continue our research in the restoration of other buildings originally standing when Farmington was a working plantation. An overall plan for the flow of traffic as restoration progresses has been made and approved by the Board of Directors.

All of these services, the plans for the blacksmith shop, research on the stone building, the topographical map, the aerial maps, the overall plan for traffic, have been donated to Farmington by interested friends. We are indeed grateful to all of these friends and all other friends of Farmington who gave their time and added gifts this year.

We are looking forward to another year full of purpose and ambitions for further restorations realized.

You will be interested to know that visitors to Farmington come in ever increasing numbers from all sections of the United States and abroad. We are eager to make new friends and interest new members. Your help in every way is indeed welcome.

Gratefully,  
THE DIRECTORS.



In 1810 John Speed brought his family to a tract of land near Louisville deeded to his father, Captain James Speed, by Patrick Henry, governor of Virginia. Here he built a plantation home, designed by Thomas Jefferson, and named it Farmington. He raised a family and created a center for home life, education and culture. Here, too, came Abraham Lincoln in 1841 to visit his lifelong friend, Joshua Speed, a son of John Speed.

In 1956 a group of public-minded citizens of Kentucky formed Historic Homes Foundation for the purpose of acquiring Farmington and restoring it to its former position of grace and utility. Since that time great progress has been made. A tract of six acres has been added to the purchase made in 1956. The house has been partially renovated and refurnished in the mode of 1810. A garden, containing only plants and vegetables available at that time, has been started. A gift shop has been installed.

Much remains to be done. There is a lower floor to be restored, a stone building to be rebuilt, a blacksmith shop to be erected, a springhouse to be restored. A complete plantation home is envisioned which will have historical value to present and future generations.

Farmington is open to the public. Historic Homes Foundation values your help given in the past and needs your continued interest. We depend on memberships, contributions and admissions. Will you continue to help by renewing your membership or becoming a member now? A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. All contributions are deductible for Federal and State income tax purposes.

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 Briney, Mrs. Bruce  
 Briney, Mr. & Mrs. Paul  
 Briney, Mr. & Mrs. Russell  
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 Calhoun, Mr. & Mrs. Patrick  
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 Campbell, Mrs. William C.  
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 Clark, Mr. Walter S.  
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 Clowes, Mrs. William H. Jr.  
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 Converse, Mrs. E. A. Jr.  
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 Cooper, Mrs. Robin Jr.  
 Cornett, Mrs. Denver B.  
 Cotton, Mrs. Maurice R.  
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 Courtenay, Mr. & Mrs. James C.  
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 Creese, Dr. Walter  
 Cregor, Mr. & Mrs. Ben W.  
 Crutcher, Miss Emma Keats  
 Crutcher, Mr. Julian H.  
 Crutcher, Lawrence M.  
 Crutcher, Mrs. Philip Speed



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 Gray, Mrs. Cecil  
 Gray, Mrs. Downey  
 Gray, Mrs. George H.  
 Gray, Mrs. Joseph R.  
 Gray, Dr. & Mrs. Laman A.  
 Green, Mr. C. Hunter  
 Green Miss Laura  
 Greer, Mr. William Hershey Jr.  
 Griffith, Mrs. Theodore B.  
 Grooms, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph  
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 Haldeman, Miss Anne Bruce  
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 Harris, Mrs. Ewing H.  
 Harris, Mr. Paul S.  
 Harrison, Mrs. John M.  
 Harrison, Mrs. William H.  
 Harrison, Mrs. Winston  
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 Hatton, Mr. Robert E.  
 Hawkes, Mrs. Forbes  
 Hayes, Miss Alice  
 Helm, Miss Margie May  
 Helm, Mrs. Nelson  
 Helm, Mrs. Blakey  
 Helm, Mr. & Mrs. T. Kennedy  
 Hennessy, Mr. John M.  
 Henning, Miss Henrietta H.  
 Henning, Miss Julia Duke  
 Heuser, Mr. & Mrs. Henry V.  
 Heyburn, Mrs. Henry B.  
 Heyburn, Mrs. John G.  
 Heyburn, Mr. & Mrs. William  
 Hiatt, Mrs. Noble W.  
 Highbaugh, Mr. & Mrs. L. L.  
 Highbaugh, Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Jr.  
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 Hill, Mrs. Eugene D.  
 Hill, Mrs. Henry K.  
 Hill, Mr. Richard H.  
 Hilliard, Mr. & Mrs. Byron  
 Hilliard, Mr. & Mrs. Edward H.  
 Hilliard Mr. & Mrs. Henning D.  
 Hinnitt, Miss Dorothy H.  
 Hogue, Mrs. Jane H.  
 Hogue, Mr. & Mrs. F. H.  
 Holloway, Mrs. Lewis  
 Horner, Mr. & Mrs. Charles  
 Houchins, Mr. George  
 Huffaker, Mrs. Walter  
 Humphrey, Mrs. A. P.  
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 Jelsma, Dr. & Mrs. Franklin  
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 Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Harold F.  
 Johnson, Mrs. Henry M.  
 Johnson, Mrs. Joseph E.  
 Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence L. III  
 Jones, Mrs. Samuel D.  
 Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Warner  
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 Joyes, Mr. & Mrs. Preston P. Jr.  
 Kammerer, Miss Florine  
 Kane, Mrs. James F.  
 Kaye, Mrs. Fenley  
 Kaye, Mrs. William H.



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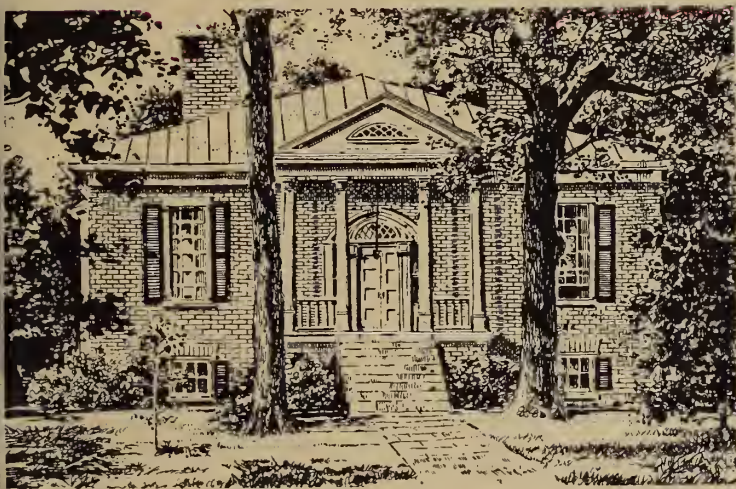
Keeney, Dr. & Mrs. Arthur H.  
 Keith, Mrs. Paul Jr.  
 Kelly, Mrs. Clinton W.  
 Kelly, Mrs. Thomas J.  
 Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. Walter S.  
 Kendall, Mr. George R.  
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 McDowell, Mr. & Mrs. Robert B.  
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 McGrath, Miss Thelma  
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Strater, Mrs. Harry A.	Witherspoon, Mrs. E. O.
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Taylor, Mrs. Horace	Wroe, Mr. Clinton
Taylor, Mrs. John B.	Yost, Mrs. Frank A.
Terrell, Mrs. Arch B. Jr.	

# FARMINGTON

*Owned and Operated by*  
HISTORIC HOMES FOUNDATION, INC.



*Built in 1810 from plans drawn by Thomas Jefferson*

Louisville, Kentucky

Bardstown Road near Intersection with Watterson Expressway

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### Ex-Officio Members

The Honorable William O. Cowger, Mayor of Louisville  
The Honorable Marlow W. Cook, Judge of Jefferson County





*"I like to see a man proud of the place  
in which he lives; I like to see a man  
live so that his place will be proud of  
him."* ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Lincoln could very well have been referring to Farmington and its master, John Speed, for in 1841 Lincoln came to visit the Speed family at Farmington and spent three memorable weeks.

In 1810 John Speed built Farmington on a tract of land granted to his father, Captain James Speed, by Patrick Henry, governor of Virginia. Here John Speed and his wife, Lucy Fry Speed, reared their family which included Joshua — Lincoln's life long friend — and James who was attorney-general in the Lincoln administration.

In 1956 Farmington was purchased by Historic Homes Foundation, Inc., a group of public minded citizens organized for the purpose of preserving homes of historic interest. Research, vitally need repairs and restoration were begun.

In 1959 a generous gift from an anonymous donor provided the inspiration for a successful drive for the establishment of an endowment fund, the continued growth of which will insure the preservation of Farmington for future generations.

A tract of six acres has been added to the four acres included in the purchase made in 1956. Restoration has continued and our first dependency, the blacksmith shop, is now open to the public as well as the main house.

Much remains to be done. Farmington gratefully appreciates your interest and valuable assistance given in the past. Will you continue to help by renewing your membership or becoming a member now? A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

*All contributions are deductible for Federal and State income tax purposes.*



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## *A Report to the Membership:*

This has been another exciting year at Farmington and a year of great change for Historic Homes Foundation, Inc.

Through the combined effort of Governor Bert Combs and Judge Bertram Van Arsdale in preserving a monument of national interest, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Fiscal Court of Jefferson County authorized the purchase of Locust Grove, the home of William Croghan and his wife, Lucy, who was the sister of George Rogers Clark. Here Clark spent the last years of his life and was buried in the family cemetery on the place. Locust Grove was given to Historic Homes Foundation to restore and act as agent in its operation.

Through the cooperation of Governor Combs and Highway Commissioner Henry Ward, the Commonwealth gave to Farmington the lot facing on Wendell Avenue at Bardstown Road to protect the entrance to Farmington with its avenue of trees leading to the main house. This land had been purchased by the Highway Department for the Watterson Expressway and declared surplus property.

The State has also given two signs directing tourists off the Watterson Expressway to Farmington. More than 6500 people from 42 states and 17 foreign countries have visited Farmington this past year and the fine cooperation of the Highway Department and the Tourist Bureau has been of tremendous help.

A movie made by the Louisville Philharmonic Orchestra with funds allocated by the 1960 General Assembly to be used for educational purposes has Farmington as its background in depicting the early life of Louisville and the visit of Anton Heinrich, the composer, to the Speed family.

Historic Homes Foundation has been named trustee and agent with the Citizens Fidelity Bank and Trust Company under the terms of the will of Hume Logan for his beautiful house, "Whitehall." This house was built in 1830 and is a fine example of the so-called "pillar house" of that era.

Farmington has been the recipient of many fine gifts this year in its furnishings department and we are deeply appreciative.

In 1960 Farmington was given by generous friends sufficient funds to erect a building that would house a blacksmith shop and the Farmington Store. Subsequently, plans were changed and the blacksmith shop was built as a separate dependency. This year Farmington received from additional donors enough money to make possible the building of a caretakers' house. This far-sighted generosity will open up to the public that part of the lower floor now occupied by our caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Williams. The Farmington Store will be moved to much larger quarters downstairs, thus releasing a room on the main floor for restoration as a family bedroom. The inside entrance to the warming kitchen now being restored will be made available.

There is much more to tell you. Our next exciting restoration will be an early 1800 log cabin recently given

to Farmington. Records show that John and Lucy Speed lived in a log cabin by the spring while the big house was being built. The cabin will be placed as near as possible to that site and will be furnished as it was during the Speeds' occupancy. A way of life unfamiliar to many young people today will be shown, the contrast between the humble beginning in a new country west of the mountains and the fulfillment of a dream—the building of a house representing the best of Jeffersonian architecture which John and Lucy Speed had known in Virginia.

The blacksmith shop is now open and draws increasingly large groups of young school children who eagerly buy our Farmington horseshoes. We are indeed grateful for the many hours of volunteer help given by our kind friends, Mr. Harry Dye and Mr. William Simpson.

Research continues on the barn or fort as we prefer to call it. Dr. Jerry Vardaman and students from the Baptist Seminary have generously given their time and effort in locating the entrance and the floor level. Mr. Hewett Hunsinger and Mr. Robert C. Tway have donated the much needed and long sought-after stone to complete the masonry work.

Our Farmington Store has grown tremendously and contributed one-fourth of our year's budget for maintenance. Water-ground meal from Mrs. Robin Cooper's Wolf Pen Mill and orange marmalade are now being sold in addition to many new and attractive treasures to catch the eye.

The Special Events Committee inaugurated its Interior Design Forum last fall which was a tremendous success and which we hope to repeat again. At Christmas there was a special exhibit of children's toys. In March an exhibit of old prints of early Louisville on loan from Mr. and Mrs. Martin Schmidt brought us our largest attendance since opening day.

Our garden continues to flourish and plants are being sold to add to the already established garden endowment fund.

Our large group of volunteer hostesses serves regularly but we are always in need of more to meet the demand of school and tourist groups.

Again our publicity has been invaluable. The First National Lincoln Bank carried a series of advertisements using a picture of Farmington. The Louisville Courier-Journal and Times have both been most generous in giving us space and WAVE, WHAS and WKYW have all been most helpful. Churchill Downs gave us publicity almost daily in its race program during the recent spring meeting.

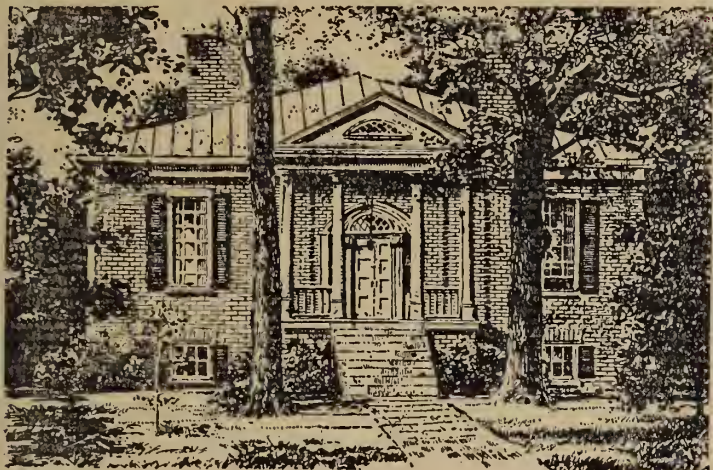
But to you, the membership, we owe our warmest thanks and appreciation. More than six hundred of you contributed to the maintenance of Farmington last year. We are dependent on our membership, our sales from our Farmington Store, our admissions, and the income from our slowly growing Endowment Fund for the operation of Farmington and we earnestly urge your continued interest and support.

Gratefully,  
FARMINGTON

# FARMINGTON

Louisville, Kentucky

Bardstown Road near Intersection with Watterson Expressway



*Built in 1810 from plans drawn by Thomas Jefferson  
and visited by Abraham Lincoln*

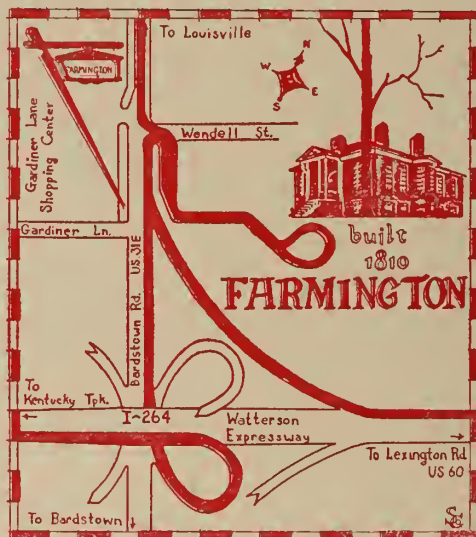
This beautiful, historic 14-room Federal style house was completed in 1810 by John Speed on a tract of land granted to his father, Captain James Speed. The land grant, signed by Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, is on display at Farmington. Here John Speed and his wife, Lucy Fry Speed, reared their family which included Joshua, Abraham Lincoln's life-long friend, and James, who was Attorney General in the Lincoln administration. Lincoln visited Farmington in 1841. The furnishings are American and English antiques made prior to 1820. A charming warming kitchen on the ground floor contains a fine collection of utensils of the period. Interesting Jeffersonian architectural details include two magnificent octagonal rooms and a hidden stairway. Behind the house is an early 19th century garden and a working blacksmith shop.

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# FARMINGTON

Owned and Operated by  
HISTORIC HOMES FOUNDATION, INC.



3033 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Ky. 40205

## LOCATION

Farmington is located six miles from the center of Louisville on the Bardstown Road (U. S. 31-E) at the intersection of the Watterson Expressway (U. S. 60 - Ky. I-264).

## DAYS AND HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday: 10 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Sunday: 1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

**Closed Monday**

## ADMISSIONS

Adults	_____	75c
Children	_____	25c
Members	_____	Free

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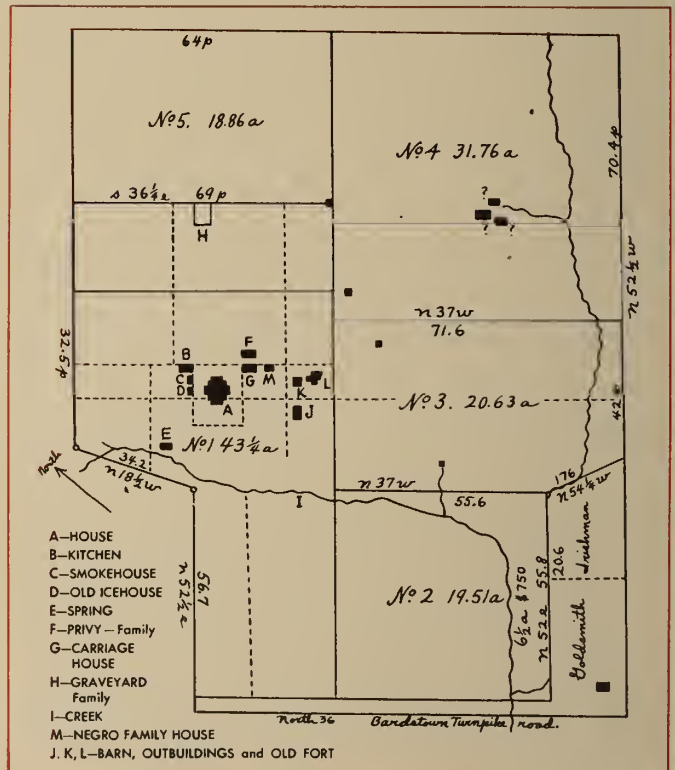
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Copy of old map of Farmington

## The Filson Club

INCORPORATED

118 WEST BRECKINRIDGE STREET

LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884

The Filson Club will meet Monday, May 4, 1959, at 8:00 p.m., fast time.  
JANET LOWELL (MRS. ERNEST) WALKER, Louisville, Kentucky, will be giving a paper on "FARMINGTON," the John Speed House owned and operated by the John Speed Foundation, a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The meeting will be in recognition of the restoration of "Farmington," which was opened to the public with appropriate ceremonies Saturday, April 18, 1959.

Mrs. Walker is a feature writer for the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, and writes on historical subjects. She is a graduate of the University of Iowa, with a B.A. degree, and is especially interested in Kentucky history. Mrs. Walker has had articles published in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Rotarian*, and has written numerous books, including *The Filson Club History Quarterly*.

Plans for the celebration of The Filson Club's Seventy-fifth Anniversary will be announced at the meeting.

RICHARD H. HILL

Parking across the street—compliments of W. M. Cissell Manufacturing





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Lincoln Natl. Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Ladies' 14k white gold sapphire crystal  
**\$120.00**



Ladies' Diamond Watch in 14k white gold  
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Man's 17-jewel Gyromatic with alligator band  
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# Accent On

*Furnishings are set up to suit  
of the home, decorated with*

By **JUDY BRYANT**

**T**HERE'S a lively little finch fluttering around inside a spacious antique English cage in Farmington's newly furnished sitting room. He is about the only compromise with the 1820 atmosphere which the visitor will find in the authentically restored Speed home.

The finch is not the only touch of life in the old home today. A pair of steel-rimmed spectacles lies on the open pages of a book, a lace-trimmed baby dress awaiting finishing touches dangles from a Sheraton work table; twin dolls, a tea party in readiness, and a quaint hobby horse suggest that some of the Speed youngsters have just vacated the room.

From the warmth of the sitting room to the formality of the octagonal dining room, complete with chairs from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the effect is worthy of a house from designs by Thomas Jefferson.

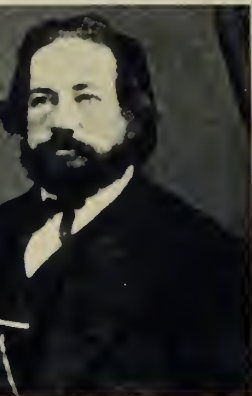
Architecturally Farmington has escaped the ravages of time and changing styles remarkably well. The red brick exterior with white frame trim and portico has solid Doric columns carved by backwoods craftsmen 150 years ago. The woodwork, ash flooring and most of the brasses of the interior are original. Twin octagonal rooms placed back to back in the central portion of the home have the earmark of the architect; the scheme is common in Jefferson's work.

It is hard to realize that such a comfortable home could have been built and furnished here when only two generations previously Kentucky had been an uncharted wilderness. Yet it is known that John and Lucy Speed built Farmington in 1810.

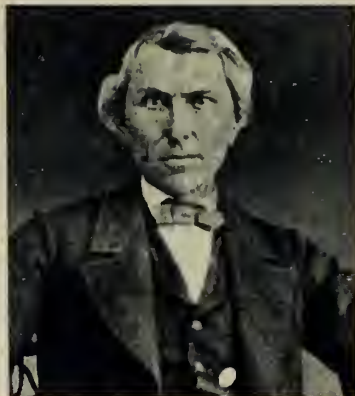
Louisville newspapers dating from 1810 to 1820 were scanned by the Historic Homes Research Committee to determine the type of furnishings appropriate to Farmington. A typical advertisement in The Western Recorder of December 13, 1813, listed "1 mahogany sideboard, 1 mahogany secretary, 1 pair of card tables, a number of dining and tea tables..." Although Louisville was then a village of some 1,400 inhabitants, imports from England and Ireland were available to those who could afford them.

The families of John and Lucy Speed were well-to-do people in Virginia. John's father, James Speed, was a captain in the Revolutionary Army who received the 1,000-acre land grant on which Farmington was built from Patrick Henry in 1780. James brought his family over the Wilderness Road to Mercer County in 1782, a year of dreadful Indian massacres. John was then 10 years old.

Lucy Gilmer Fry came with her family over the Wilderness Road at age 10 in 1798. Her father, Joshua Fry, became a professor



**JAMES P. BOYCE**



**WILLIAM WILLIAMS**



**BASIL MANLY, JR.**

*inary faculty. Boyce was the driving force, Broadus the "heart." Williams aroused an early controversy.*

theory of evolution, and his scholarship brought him to what were then considered critical and dangerous views about the Bible.

He was asked to cease and desist, but he could not separate his convictions from his teachings. Toy's views eventually got him in trouble and he resigned from the faculty. They were views which—radical perhaps then—would be considered practically conservative today.

Toy later was appointed to the faculty of Harvard University as "a theological refugee," and he served there with unusual distinction as professor and head of the department of Semitic languages.

Williams, one of the original faculty, came under attack for his espousal of "alien immersion"—the belief that persons who had been baptized by immersion in another church could be received in membership in a Baptist church without being baptized again by a Baptist minister. Williams' teaching assignment was shifted to put him in a less sensitive area.

The seminary's sixth professor was William H. Whitsitt, a Tennessean of great erudition and prolific output who became "the seminary's martyr" and gave his name to "the Whitsitt controversy."

Whitsitt—third president of the seminary—was a man whose naivete sometimes matched his scholarship. Students sitting through an hour of dry lecture were rewarded with certain gems of terse thought ("I would rather have 10 words on the spot than a carload of reminiscences") but much of the time "Uncle Billy" was over their heads.

In the summer of 1880, Whitsitt spent two months doing research in the British Museum and the libraries of Oxford and Cambridge. In all innocence, he published the results of his research as anonymous editorial matter in *The New York Independent*, a non-Baptist journal.

The essence of his writing was the Baptist-shaking statement that baptism by immersion first began as a practice among British Baptists in 1641 and he even used the phrase that Edward Barber "invented" it.

This contention drove smack-on into the jealously defended viewpoint of Baptists who traced their origin right back to apostolic days through "immersion succession." To suggest that British Baptists did not immerse before 1641 was to break the line of succession and flaunt the claim to unique possession of "the faith once delivered to the saints."

A horrible storm broke over Whitsitt's head—brewed largely by the people known as Landmarkers. Baptist periodicals took up the Whitsitt controversy, almost unanimously opposing him. State

"People are amenable to reason and nobody wants to believe what is erroneous."

The faculty rallied strongly to his defense and Whitsitt issued a firm statement to the trustees. For a time, it appeared that Whitsitt had withstood the storm. But in the Southern Baptist Convention of 1898, a resolution was introduced to sever the convention's connections with the seminary. It was made out of some odd reasoning by a seminary trustee who hoped to preserve the school's unity.

The resolution was adopted to be acted on at the next year's meeting. But before this could happen, Whitsitt ended the hue and cry by resigning.

Once more, the leader had stepped out too far from the crowd. The irony of it is that in 1896 Whitsitt's contentions threatened to destroy the Southern Baptist Convention but in 1959 the majority of Southern Baptists would probably accept his findings without a ripple of reaction.

**N**OT all the seminary's pace-making contributions to theological education have brought such tenseness. Prof. A. T. Robertson produced 44 books, among them Greek grammars that were widely translated (into 11 languages) and accepted throughout the world as basic texts. Robertson was one who conceived the Baptist World Alliance, all-encompassing organization of worldwide Baptists; and when Dr. E. Y. Mullins, the seminary's fourth president, addressed the first Baptist World Congress in London, "He rose to speak, a man practically unknown east of the Atlantic, and sat down with a world reputation."

Dr. W. O. Carver brought to Baptists a world vision of missions which excited them as never before and a creative approach to teaching that left a long mark.

The seminary's enrollment has leaped in the past century. A School of Religious Education and a School of Church Music have been added to its School of Theology. Enrollment now averages between 1,200 and 1,500, making it one of the largest theological schools in the world.

In its present day, Dr. Wayne E. Oates has pioneered to a position as giant in the field of pastoral counseling, attracting students from throughout the world and imitation by theological schools everywhere.

*But in the minds of some, to this day the seminary remains suspect. It is under running attack from reactionary quarters as "a hotbed of liberals and modernists." Publications exist which never miss an issue without an attack on the seminary.*





Built in 1810 after designs by Thomas Jefferson, Farmington is now open to the public. Turn left at the sign on Bardstown Road before the Watterson Expressway, follow the lane.

*Right*—Looking out the entry of Farmington. The Hepplewhite chairs in the front hall are on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Arched fanlight is echoed over an interior door as well as rear door.





Inside the bedroom door stands this traveling medicine kit, its drawers filled with old remedies. The open pages and the steel-rimmed spectacles help make Farmington a living museum.

The formal dining room is in one of the two octagonal rooms that mark Farmington as having been made from plans by Jefferson. Each piece in home was made before 1820.



building, manned and other things of the building.







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Left—The  
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bowl and



The open book gives one the feeling that someone was there a moment ago. The miniature pewter tea set was an unexpected gift, donated the day Farmington was opened.



Right—The bedroom at Farmington is decorated in the Virginia manner, with white

...d taffeta lining,  
...stitched binding.

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332

# Hospitality there was so gracious one visitor stayed for a year

## FARMINGTON *Continued*

and the remains of an old fort just south of the house, are reminders that settlers were not yet secure against marauding Indians.

Paint colors for the walls of each room were discovered by scraping down to the original. A small sample of unretouched wall has been left behind the doorways for comparison. The octagonal entrance ball walls and woodwork are off white. They were papered at one time, but wall paper was not prevalent in Kentucky when the house was built.

**T**HE gray-green walls of the dining room provide a perfect foil for its gold English damask draperies and gold-and-white stripe dining chair seats. On the right-hand wall a portrait by Matthew Jouett hangs above an inlaid Sheraton sideboard which formerly belonged to President Zachary Taylor. The sideboard was given to Farmington by the Art Center. Furniture has been accumulated from many sources, some donated, and some on loan from individuals and antique dealers. Each piece has been authenticated as to period.

Two of several Hepplewhite chairs lent by the Metropolitan Museum are placed beside the brass andironed hearth in the dining room. Fresh tulips in a lacquered Chinese cache pot lend their color to the room. The hospitably sized mahogany dining table holds a crystal footed bowl of fresh fruit.

The bedroom at Farmington does not claim to be the one in which Lincoln slept.

---

Judy (Mrs. Debaun) Bryant formerly worked in our advertising department, and has written stories for us in the past.

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To date the Research Committee has found no documentation as to which room he occupied. The room is delightful without romanticizing.

The New England birch pencil post bed (of about 1750-1780) with canopy and spread was donated to Farmington by Mrs. Leonard Davidson, chairman of the furniture committee. The blue of the documentary print spread, dust ruffle and canopy is picked up by the woodwork, with the walls left white. The bedroom is the only room at Farmington decorated in the Virginia style—colored walls and white woodwork were more typical of Kentucky.

The Serpentine Adams fender at the fireplace calls attention to the elegant simplicity of the mantle and paneling. There's an Eli Terry pillar-and-scroll mahogany clock upon the mantle. A traveling medicine cabinet with drawers still loaded with ginger and myrrh sits on a table just inside the door. The tortoise-shell comb on the chest of drawers, a child's Windsor chair and soft leather slippers, and a framed silken sampler dated 1808 add to the atmosphere.

The sitting room at Farmington may well be a visitor's first love. Its well-worn oriental rug, the artless array of children's toys and the simply styled Windsor chairs and Martha Washington armchair make the room especially homelike.

There is a child's Chippendale table and chair which converts into a high chair. The miniature pewter tea service on the table was an unexpected bonanza for Farmington. Mrs. Ben Clement, a Speed descendant from Marion, Ky., arrived at the opening to donate the treasured family keepsake.

A graceful American cherry highboy and an inlaid Hepplewhite slant top desk lend distinction. French copper candlesticks and a fine Oriental Lowestoft bowl are arranged on the secretary. A footed Regency copper urn stands on a circular Hepplewhite pedestal table, seemingly ready to serve visitors. The accent is on Farmington's tradition of hospitality.

**O**F THE 10 Speed children reared at Farmington, seven were girls. They took turns, one always being in attendance in the sitting room, curled and combed in Sunday finery, to act as hostess if company arrived. The 14-room house entertained many guests. A German musician named Anton Heinrich found the environment so delightful that he stayed an entire year.

The most famous visit, that of Lincoln, was re-enacted for Farmington's official opening on April 18, with descendants of the Speed family costumed as their forebears.

Josua Speed, a son of John and Lucy, had become Lincoln's closest friend in Springfield. Lincoln was invited to visit the Speed home at a time when he was in need of rest and friendship. His letter to Mary Speed and the inscription on the photograph sent to Lucy Speed from the White House 20 years later show how well he enjoyed the kindness extended him.

**J**OSHUA SPEED remained a lifelong friend of Lincoln, often called on by the President for advice. His brother James served as Attorney General in the President's cabinet and was present at Lincoln's bedside when he died.

Farmington's doors are once more open for visitors: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. Plans call for the home to become self-sustaining through a small admission charge presently supplemented by the leasing of basement rooms to the Junior League and the Beautification League.

A small country store in the rear left room on the main floor is operated for Farmington's upkeep, selling old hams and water-ground corn meal.

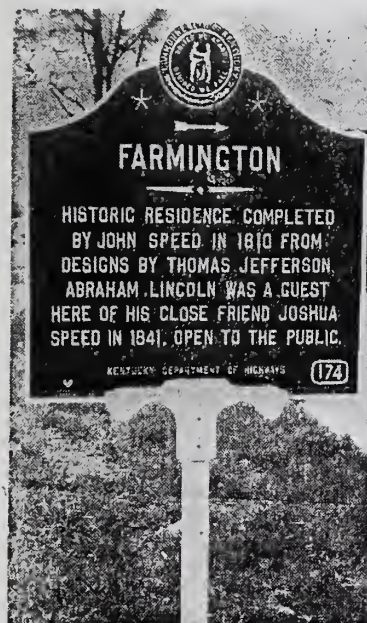
Women's clubs and garden clubs of Louisville supply hostesses to show visitors through the house.



# A Weary Abe Rested Brain at Farmington

A visible reminder of Louisville's links with the nation's history is Farmington, a gracious and durable house off Bardstown Road north of the Watterson Expressway.

The deed to the property was signed in 1780, two years after Louisville was founded, by Patrick Henry, who was then governor of Virginia.



Pointing the way to Farmington is this sign at Watterson Expressway and Bardstown Road.

The house was built some 30 years later from a design by Thomas Jefferson.

Abraham Lincoln in 1841 made a three-week visit to Farmington as the guest of his close friend, Joshua Speed.

And the latest chapter was written this year when Farmington's preservation for posterity was assured. The property was bought in 1957 by a newly formed organization, the Historic Homes Foundation, and on April 18, 1959, it was dedicated and opened to the public with a re-enactment of the Lincoln visit.

No other tourist attraction in the country so closely combines the reputations of Jefferson and Lincoln.

Lincoln's return to his native state at age 32 was a meaningful interlude. During the visit his friend Joshua encouraged him to marry Mary Todd of Lexington. Lincoln obtained rest in a period when he was weary and discouraged. And it was on his return journey from Louisville to Springfield, Ill., that Lincoln saw slaves herded aboard his boat—a miserable scene still in his mind when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation 21 years later.

The house came to Joshua Speed from his parents, John and Lucy Fry Speed, who had supervised its building. It was completed in 1810. The John Speeds were natives of Virginia, and Mrs. Speed's family had close ties with Thomas Jefferson. This may have influenced the decision toward a Jeffersonian design for the Speed home.

Jefferson's floor plans are in the Coolidge Collection of Jefferson Papers, at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. Typical Jeffersonian features of the design include two octagonal rooms in the central portion of the house and a concealed secret stairway.

Prior to the purchase of the home by the Historic Homes Foundation, it was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Porter Smith and their son, Robert. They supervised extensive and careful restoration of it, and declined to sell it to any individual, hoping instead for the kind of future for it which now is assured.

It is now a "living house" museum, open every day except Mondays, Christmas and New Year's Day. The hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 2 to 5 p.m. on Sundays.



Abraham Lincoln arrives at Farmington, re-enacted with John Ward while Mrs. Bosworth Todd, Jr., watches the rehearsal for Farmington.



# Christmas Day In The Style Of 1820

The spirit of Christmas past has been revived in stately old Farmington, now decorated the way a Kentucky family would have fixed it for the day

By JUDY BRYANT

**T**O EVOKE the spirit of Christmas past, one need travel only a quarter-mile lane from Bardstown Road to Farmington, where the historic Speed house has been decked out as it would have been for the holiday in 1820. The heanbags and rag dolls which delighted children then may seem far removed from today's models of Cape Canaveral and dolls which break out with measles, but certain traditions of Christmas in Kentucky have remained unchanged. Decorations in each room recall old customs, some of which have carried over through 140 years.

Generous garlands of cedar frame a welcoming arch over the doorways for Christmas visitors. Built in 1810 for John and Lucy Fry Speed from a plan by Thomas Jefferson, the porticoed brick house adapts itself gracefully to holiday festivities.

Silver wine coolers filled with holly, pine and spruce adorn the inlaid mahogany side tables in the hall. A mammoth hall of wax-berried mistletoe hangs in the center-hall door. Christmas greenery was an old English custom which the Speeds and many other Kentuckians retained from their Virginia child-

hoods. Greens were frowned upon in the New England states where Puritan disapproval was strong enough to impose fines upon any man who did not choose to work on Christmas day. Christmas trees had not yet made their appearance in America—the first one on record was decorated by a German tutor for some Williamsburg children in 1842. So there is no tree at Farmington.

The Speed family Christmas is the scene set in the sitting room—evergreens spiced by a dancing row of gingerbread boys atop the mantel, and a row of woolen hand-knit stockings hung underneath. The seven Speed children, aged 1 to 9, have been ingeniously provided for. There is a wooden model of Noah's Ark, with carved pairs of animals and a Noah made of cornhusks. Rag dolls for the girls have aprons embroidered with the owners' names—Peachy, Lucy and Susan. Stuffed halls for the boys are embroidered for Phillip, William, Josh and James. A papier-mache set of Punch and Judy puppets with a brilliant red stage, and bright calico beanbags complete the array of toys made according to pictures or accounts of toys of the day. An authentic Pennsylvania doll chair of 1790 and 18th Century cabinet maker's miniature samples of a poster bed, a hureau and a cradle add a special luster to the toy display.


**A**N 1814 EDITION of the New Testament lies opened to Luke's account of the Nativity, with a pair of steel-rimmed spectacles ready for Judge Speed to read aloud to the children.

Having had a short and solemn religious observance of the day and a hearty breakfast, the Speeds would have been prepared for the sociable intrusions to follow. A chased silver punch howl stands ready for callers in the music room.

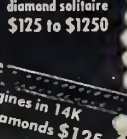
Christmas was not primarily a day of present-exchanging in the early 1800's. Children's toys were not elaborate. For adults a warm wish or a friendly handclasp was sufficient—but these were delivered in person. Family and neighbors dropped in informally throughout the day to exchange news and to warm friendly ties over a toddy before a blazing fire. This congenial custom still holds sway in such communities as Henderson, Adairville, Harrodsburg, Danville, and doubtless in countless others. In Louisville it is done among some crowds, although many regard

*Continued on following pages*


Ladies' cocktail ring \$395



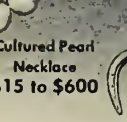
Emerald cut diamond solitaire \$125 to \$1250



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This sign on Bardstown Road near the Watterson Expressway points the way.







from 1 to 9. Gifts for them  
bags, a carved model of  
complete with its own stage.



The octagonal room was all set for the dancing that was to be held Christmas night. A harp, spinet and music stand wait for the musicians. Christmas dancing in Louisville dates back to the first Christmas the settlers were here.

The Christmas feast is spread for the family, with everything from turkey, a pig, plum pudding and charlotte russe, plus nuts and wine. Portrait at left, by Matthews Jouett, is now part of the collection.



# A visit will dispel the idea that celebrations then were deadly dull

the day as purely for family and restrict holiday visits to Christmas Eve or New Year's Day.

The Christmas dinner was held around 3 in the afternoon, a bounteous feast and occasion for a gathering of all available family. Farmington's banquet table is hospitably extended and set with Crown Derby china, Williamsburg goblets and an old English flat silver service with pistol-handled knives. A handsome epergne centerpiece and nut dishes around the table are laden with the nuts and fruits which would have been available. A turkey awaits carving on a side table. The roast pig with apple in mouth which was made at the Junior Art Gallery has a place of honor on the Sberaton sideboard which once belonged to Zachary Taylor.

In many parts of the South the selection and careful overfeeding of the proper pig were paramount to the preparations for Christmas. One interesting sidelight on pigs at Christmas was that the bladders were highly prized. They were saved for the children of the family to inflate on Christmas morning, and made a highly satisfactory pop.

A long mahogany bunt board displays a silver pair of Georgian candelabra and the kitchen's two *pieces de resistance*, a tempting plum pudding wreathed in holly and an elaborate, pink, three-tiered confection. Made from a sketch in an 18th Century cookbook, the latter represents a Russian charlotte russe. One feels less than envious of bygone hostesses when contemplating personal creation of these delicacies rather than ordering by telephone.

Over the mantel in the dining room is a fine addition to Farmington's permanent collection. It is a recently donated oil portrait of William Starling, painted in 1817 by Matthew Jouett, one of Kentucky's foremost early artists.

THE room behind the dining room, formerly used for the shop, now holds Farmington's museum display. Branches of magnolia have been added for seasonal warmth along with an apparently blazing fire. The latter recalls one Christmas custom which has regrettably disappeared altogether. The surrounding woods were carefully combed for a magnificent tree to provide the yule log. By tradition, once the log was lit, no further work was done until it ceased to burn. This resulted in a conspiracy among the servants of carefully dampening the log for weeks before Christmas to provide a long, slow demise. The device was so well recognized that there is a saying in the South of logs that they are "as wet as a Christmas log."

Beside the museum hearth are a straight-backed Shaker chair and a small black rocker

by John Speed the historian, an ancestor of the Speed for whom Farmington was built.

The octagonal room opposite the dining room is set for the big climax of Christmas in 1820, the evening musicale and dance. The bay windows are festooned with a rope of cedar, and the finely carved mantel is banked with greens. Six Hepplewhite chairs on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art are arranged along the wall. A mellow spinet, an early music stand and a beautifully inlaid harp stand ready to be played for the dance.

MUSIC and dancing on Christmas night dates back in Louisville to the very first celebration held on Corn Island in 1778. That day the pioneers had almost despaired of baying the hoped-for accompaniment until a French musician happened along. The Frenchman knew only minuets and pavaues, so he was traded out of his spare violin strings for three raccoon skins. The strings were given to Cato, a Negro fiddler who had worn out his own, and the hoedowns and jigs went far into the night. Dances are still associated with Christmastime in almost every community in Kentucky. Traditionally, Shelbyville has held an annual tea dance on Christmas afternoon to which all generations flock.

Other than Christmas cards and gilt, it seems that we've invented very little that is new since 1820. If the tour convinces one of nothing else, it should dispel the idea that holidays in those times were deadly dull.

Farmington is maintained by the non-profit Historic Homes Foundation. The hostesses are volunteers, as are the many amateur antiquarians who lend time and possessions for each special exhibit. Admission is \$1 for adults, 25 cents for children. Closed on New Year's Day, Christmas Day and Mondays, the Christmas exhibit will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday afternoons, through January 3.

Judy (Mrs. DeBaun) Bryant, a former member of our advertising department staff, has written a number of articles for us, some dealing with Farmington.



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Louisville 5, Kentucky. Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

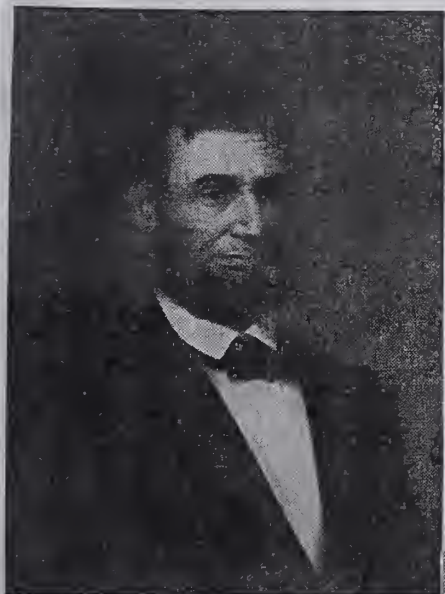
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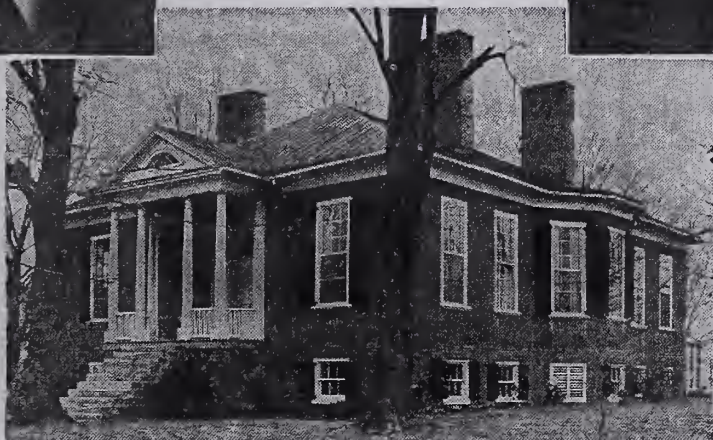


From an original portrait  
of Abraham Lincoln  
in the directors' room of  
Liberty National Bank

# ABE AND JOSH



Excerpt  
portrait  
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Farmington, the Jefferson-designed home of the Joshua Speed family

# a Speed, a Louisvillian Lincoln's most intimate friend

Farmington was the closest Lincoln ever had. Farmington, on the Bardstown Pike, six miles from Louisville, but is now a part of the city. It is an interesting place with many interesting letters written by Lincoln. Many of the greatest *personal* letters, were sent to Joshua Speed, when both of these young men were in a very trying period of their lives.

Joshua Speed's feelings of the step they were taking, seemed to plague both of them, and it was not until it got into the minds and souls of both that it was revealed. Sometimes one writes long lines. In fact, the correspondence was that when the biographer John Herndon, sought to obtain the letters, he encountered opposition. The letters were passed for publication, after much time had been made.

At Abe Lincoln had serious doubts as to his own coming marriage. A letter was written that he actually "stood up" to Mary on their first set for their wedding. Speed he refers to this event, as "the fatal 1st of January; and Mary and Mary were reconciled to good" on November 4, 1842.

And Abe's friend Josh Speed had serious doubts as to whether or not it was the woman for whom he really loved her, even according to the letters). But Speed tried to reassure him that he was "happy" and that they would be together—a prediction that came true.

To us as Kentuckians and Louisvillians, it is interesting to learn from these letters how much Farmington and the Speed family meant to Lincoln; and particularly the friendship of Joshua Speed, during this crucial period of Abe's life.

A perusal of these early Lincoln-Speed letters again impresses on us the fact that great men are also subject to human emotions and weaknesses and soul-searchings. We feel closer to Lincoln because of these experiences of indecision, which he had to conquer. And when we visit Farmington\* we will have a better understanding of the part this old Kentucky homestead played in the early life of Abe Lincoln. Here we will have a sense of the nearness of Lincoln and of the tragic yet glorious drama in which he was the chief actor.

*\*Farmington is now restored and open to the public, thanks to the efforts of a group of historical-minded and civic-spirited citizens of our community.*



## Lincoln's Visit to Kentucky - 18

No incident in Abraham Lincoln's life was more enjoyable perhaps than his visit in the Speed home at "Farmington" near Louisville, Kentucky, in August and September, 1841. Following his turbulent love affair with Mary Todd, he needed a change of scene. Breaking his engagement with the aristocratic daughter of Robert Smith Todd of Lexington, Kentucky, on January 1st, 1841, Lincoln experienced an emotional crisis and suffered acute mental anguish.

In a letter to John T. Stuart, dated January 23rd, 1841, Lincoln in reference to the "fatal first of January" stated that "I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on the earth. . . . I fear I shall be unable to attend to any business here, and a change of scene might help me." Apparently, Mary

was also miserable, (17, 1841) that Lincoln I have not met him would that the case more resume his sta

Lincoln made a v Joshua Fry Speed, t June 20th Lincoln w to come to Louisvi close friendship on 2 in Springfield with himself as a lawyer

Speed was the s Lucy Gilmer Fry Sp he and other partn Bell & Company, o



Photograph secured from Historic Homes Foundation, Inc.  
Farmington

Built by Judge John Speed, from plans drawn by Thomas Jefferson, in 1809-1810. Lincoln visited the home during the months of August and September, 1841.



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were made of the finest hardwood. Then, too, there is  
exquisite handwork in the house, with its reeded door-  
ways, delicate fanlights, beautiful cabinets and interest-  
ing Adamesque mantels. Upon entering Farmington,  
Lincoln was likely impressed with the long driveway  
lined with locust and walnut trees, with the splendid  
mansion set back a quarter of a mile from the Bardstown  
Pike. In the rear of the house was a family burying  
ground, a stone barn, blacksmith shop, springhouse, slave  
quarters and other buildings.

If Lincoln had known that Farmington was designed  
by Jefferson, he would perhaps have been interested in  
the two octagonal rooms set back in the central area of  
the house, and the fanlights over interior as well as ex-  
terior doors. A rococo mantel in one of the octagonal  
rooms is of great interest because of the decorative motifs  
inspired by the American and French revolutions. Un-  
doubtedly, one of the most interesting features of the  
home is the secret stairway, which is narrow and steep.  
Hidden between the main hall and the ground floor, it  
provided an escape in case of an Indian attack. Ruined  
walls resembling a small fort, only a few yards south of  
the house, indicate that at one time there must have been  
a connecting tunnel from the big house to the fort.

The house has a long history. Here ten children were  
born to John and Lucy Speed. Some of them grew up to  
become distinguished citizens. The Speeds entertained  
many visitors and relatives. One visitor, a German  
musician named Anton Heinrich, remained at Farmington  
for one year. However, one of the most fascinating stories  
about Farmington is an account of the company of volun-  
teers for the War of 1812 who enjoyed the hospitality of  
the Speeds and went away loaded with choice provisions.

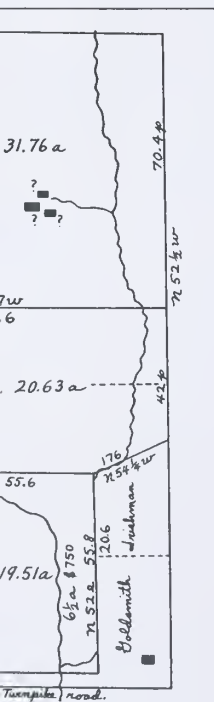
Upon Lincoln's arrival at Farmington, he was assigned  
a servant to attend to his personal needs. This servant  
was chosen from among seventy-odd slaves on the planta-  
tion. Lincoln was provided also with a riding horse for  
his exclusive use. According to Robert L. Kincaid, author  
of the brochure, "Joshua Fry Speed — Lincoln's Most  
Intimate Friend" (1943), Lincoln "tramped the fields  
with Joshua; he took long rides into the country; he had  
pleasant chats with gentle, philosophic and motherly Mrs.  
Speed. He romped with Mary, Speed's older half-sister,  
and once in a playful mood shut her up in a room to  
prevent her as he said, 'from committing assault and  
battery upon me.' He occasionally made trips to Louisville  
where he spent many delightful hours with James Speed,  
Joshua's brother who was a rising young lawyer, and  
read many of his books. Once he had the painful experi-  
ence of going to a dentist in Louisville who made a  
futile effort at a tooth extraction. Of all the good things  
he had to eat, nothing was more enjoyed than 'the dishes  
of peaches and cream' which the Speeds so bountifully  
supplied."

While visiting with his friend's brother, little did either  
man realize that twenty-three years later, on December  
1, 1864, Lincoln would appoint James Speed to be  
Attorney General.

Twenty-six year old Joshua (he would be 27 on Novem-  
ber 14, 1841) was also having romantic problems. His  
fiancee, Fanny Henning, (Lincoln called her "black-eyed  
Fanny") lived with her uncle, John Williamson, on a  
farm nearby, and Lincoln often accompanied the young  
suitor to the Williamson home with the avowed purpose  
of engaging the uncle in conversation so that Joshua  
could "ply his trouth." The strategy worked and young  
Joshua and Fanny became engaged.

In fact, the Speed-Henning romance afforded Lincoln  
the opportunity of making his first visit to Lexington.  
Proof of this trip is to be found in a letter Lincoln wrote  
to Speed on January (3?), 1842 in which he said: "...  
did you not go and take me all the way to Lexington and  
back, for no other purpose but to get to see her  
again. . . ?" After Lincoln's marriage to Mary Todd, he  
visited his wife's home town on two other occasions in  
1847 and 1849.

One cannot help but wonder if Lincoln, while a guest  
at Farmington, discussed with Speed the scenes of his  
childhood in adjoining Hardin County (Larue County was  
not formed until 1842) and perhaps even came thought to







From the Frederick H. Meserve Collection  
Joshua Fry Speed

This photograph of Lincoln's life-long friend was made in the Mathew Brady Studio, Washington, D. C. about 1862.

had made, would no doubt have been referred to quite often when he was later concerned with the compiling of his presidential campaign autobiography.

Lincoln came to Farmington to rest and recuperate from his attack of hypochondria occasioned by his break with Mary Todd. Speed must have told his family about Lincoln's legal and political accomplishments in Illinois, but if any mention was made of his hypochondriaism, perhaps only Mrs. Speed was taken into her son's confidence. Undoubtedly, Mrs. Speed suspected Lincoln's distress over his disastrous love affair because of his recurrent melancholy moods, and she presented her guest with an Oxford Bible which she recommended as the "best cure for the Blues." Years later on October 3, 1861 Lincoln would send Mrs. Speed, by Joshua who was visiting in Washington, his photograph with the inscription, "For Mrs. Lucy G. Speed from whose pious hand I accepted the present of an Oxford Bible twenty years ago."

During Lincoln's visit at Farmington his host suffered a minor illness; however, this did not prevent Joshua's plan to return to Springfield with Lincoln to wind up his business affairs and collect some delinquent accounts. About September 7th the two young men took the steamboat *Lebanon* enroute for St. Louis. The journey was without incident except for occasional navigational delays and the sight of some dozen Negro slaves being taken South.

There is every reason to believe that while these young friends visited and traveled together, they talked about their love affairs. Lincoln constantly insisted both verbally and later by letter that Speed should marry "black eyed" Fanny. On the other hand Speed was of the opinion that the needless anxiety arising out of the "fatal first of January" should be ended with a reconciliation between Lincoln and Mary.

Arriving in St. Louis about September 14th, the travelers made a two-day stage coach journey to Springfield. Lincoln was under a compulsion to get back to his legal practice, and Fall Court opened at Tazewell on September 16th. The stage probably arrived in Springfield late in the afternoon of September 15th. Once they arrived in

ness transactions, (as several years attempt Speed returned to K some further persuas ence, he married Fann Lincoln for playing surely strengthened which nuptials were

A summary of some Farmington, and his may best be revealed addressed to Mary S Illinois on September his return to Illinois. to the Library of Tuley:

"My Friend: Had your mother's family mission of any one little difficulty in task of reading wh and silly letter; bu I were something c ton, and that, wh necessity of shutting committing an assa ly decided that you

"I assume that myself since we whether he has w

"You remember Joshua's health wh of his turned out pretty nearly forg We got on board t of the Canal abou and reached St. I Nothing of intere except the vexatio be thought interest presented on boar



From the J.

used to have at your house.

"When we left, Miss Fanny Henning was owing you a visit, as I understood. Has she paid it yet? If she has, are you not convinced that she is one of the sweetest girls in the world? There is but one thing about her, so far as I could perceive, that I would have otherwise than as it is. That is something of a tendency to melancholly. This, let it be observed, is a misfortune not a fault. Give her an assurance of my very highest regard, when *you* see her.

"Is little Siss Eliza Davis [likely the two-year-old daughter of Joshua's younger sister Susan Speed Davis; however, Mary's own younger sister, also a child of John Speed's first wife, was also named Eliza Davis Speed.] at your house yet? If she is kiss her 'o'er and o'er again' for me.

"Tell your mother that I have not got her 'present' [Oxford Bible] with me; but that I intend to read it regularly when I return home. I doubt not that it is really, as she says, the best cure for the 'Blues' could one but take it according to the truth.

"Give my respects to all your sisters, including 'Aunt Emma', [Emma Keats who married Joshua's younger brother Philip, a daughter of George Keats, a brother of the poet John Keats] and brothers. Tell Mrs. Peay [Mrs. Peachy Walker Speed, wife of Austin Peay, Joshua's older sister], of whose happy face I shall long retain a pleasant remembrance, that I have been trying to think of a name for her homestead, but as yet, can not satisfy myself with one. I shall be very happy to receive a line from you, soon after you receive this; and, in case you choose to favour me with one, address it to Charleston, Coles Co. Ills as I shall be there about the time to receive it. Your sincere friend A. Lincoln"

One cannot help but wonder why, during the ensuing years before Lincoln was elected to the Presidency, the Lincolns and Speeds did not visit one another. Mary read some of Speed's letters to her husband and oftentimes sent her regards to Mrs. Speed. On August 24, 1855 Lincoln wrote his friend and among other things mentioned that "Mary will probably pass a day or two in Louisville in October." Was she invited to Farmington? We will probably never know because the Speed letters to Lincoln have not been discovered. However, the Lincolns and the Speeds did visit on one occasion in Chicago in late November of 1860, when the President-elect and his running mate Hannibal Hamlin met in that city for a conference and to receive distinguished guests. Acting upon Lincoln's invitation with the suggestion that Mrs. Speed accompany him, Lincoln's old friend considered this a command as much as a gesture of friendship, and responded. Mary and Fanny, it appears, enjoyed a brief visit together.

Joshua Speed remained a life-long friend of Lincoln, although he declined a position in the Cabinet. He differed with the President on the question of the extension of slavery and was not in favor of abolition by decree. Nevertheless, Speed was loyal and helped keep Kentucky in the Union. He was of great assistance to Lincoln in establishing an armed force in his state in opposition to the Confederate cause. Up to the date of Lincoln's death, these two old friends kept in communication with each other. Speed occasionally called on Lincoln in the White House, when they must have reminisced about the happy weeks they spent at Farmington in August and September of 1841.

Today Farmington has been restored to its original condition by the Historic Homes Foundation, Inc. of Louisville, Kentucky. All the furnishings are American and English antiques made prior to 1820. The Foundation acquired the property in 1957 and the formal opening to the public was in April, 1959. When the home was first built it was six miles distant from the small city of Louisville. Now, the city extends south far enough to incorporate the Speed estate. Today the home is located at a junction of two highways, just off the intersection of Bardstown Road and Watterson Expressway. Farmington is open every day except Mondays, Christmas and

*precious hands of  
little twenty years ago  
A. Lincoln*

um, Louisville, Kentucky

Lincoln's inscription to  
taken of the President  
d June 30, 1861. The

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Feb. 12 Program

1-28-69  
Course

## Lincoln and Historic Homes Anniversaries to Be Marked

A Feb. 12 program called "An Evening With Lincoln" will mark Abraham Lincoln's 160th birthday and the 10th anniversary of Historic Homes Foundation, Inc., of Louisville.

Dr. Stewart Winning McClelland of Indianapolis will speak at 8 p.m. in Bigelow Hall at the University of Louisville on "Lincoln and His Southern Friends." Lloyd Ostendorf, Dayton, Ohio, will have an exhibition of Lincoln portraits at the J. B. Speed Art Museum.

Historic Homes Foundation was created to preserve and restore Farmington, 3033 Bardstown Road, where Lincoln visited owner Joshua Speed in 1841. In 1961, the foundation began restoration

of Locust Grove on Blank Street, the last home of George Rogers

McClelland is a past president trustee of Lincoln University, Harrogate, Tenn., and a member of the Civil War Round Table.

Ostendorf illustrated "A Portrait of Abraham Lincoln," and will exhibit with Charles Hamilton "Lincoln Photographs," which include a photograph now in the Speed Art Museum.

The talk and the exhibition will be open to the public.

Historic Homes and the Civil War Round Table are sponsors of the program. Frank McClelland is president of the Round Table and chairman.



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early 19th century, with elegant but simple elements. Some adaptations were made in the original design, but the house has the Palladian elegance which distinguished Jefferson's work.

Farmington is historically interesting especially because of its association with Abraham Lincoln. Joshua Speed, the second son of the original owner of the house, was one of Lincoln's most intimate friends. After one of Lincoln's upsets in his stormy courtship of Mary Todd, in 1841, he accepted the younger Speed's invitation to visit him for much needed rest. He spent three weeks at Farmington and apparently regained his strength as his engagement to Miss Todd was announced shortly after his return to Springfield.

Farmington is situated at the end of a tree-lined lane and presents a classic portico. On the main floor are medium-sized reception and sitting rooms, a drawing room, and dining room. The octagonal shape of these important rooms requires the window walls to sweep outward into bays. The bedrooms [one is sketched here] are also on this floor, in the rear.

The floor beneath the main living floor accommodates the kitchen and service areas, a family living room, and sleeping quarters for the children. There are fireplaces in every room. Mantels are restrained, and millwork is very simple but fine.

Other Jeffersonian touches include a secret winding staircase, narrow and steep between the main floor and the ground floor, which may

have been provided to safeguard retreat from hostile Indians.

The house has the enduring quality of looking as if it were lived in by people who originally lived there. The colors are quiet and restrained with no effort to be dramatic. A garden at the rear of the house is typical of the early 19th-century country houses. The fruit trees, vegetables, herbs, and flowers, well planned to blend with low bushes and towering trees, make Farmington a delightful place in the spring.

Farmington is open to the public and it is well worth a visit.

William Pahlmann



*Abraham Lincoln spent a short vacation in Farmington, now a historic home. It's based on a design by Thomas Jefferson.*



9. FIREPLACE AT "FARMINGTON." The visitor feels close at "FARMINGTON." In the airy room which contains this place of carved wood, Lincoln played with little Elizabeth with Speed, his sister, and <sup>his</sup> mother, who gave him an O. He sometimes went to town and saw Speed's brother, John. One day was to make Attorney-General of the U.S." BVL















Esq; Governor of the Commonwealth of VIRGINIA, to all to whom  
come, Greeting: K N O W I E, that by Virtue and authority of Public Land Office Treasury  
Three Thousand and Eight Hundred and the Twenty sixth day of April 1795. Thomas Lewis hundred and

there is granted by the said Commonwealth, unto the said James Speed.

Tract of Land, containing the hundred and twenty five Acres by Survey made the Twenty second  
Thomas Lewis hundred and the Twenty fourth day of April 1795. Adjacent Nicholas  
hundred and twenty five Acres on the North of the South fork of Big Wolf and thence with  
at the South East Corner of the Survey at a Poplar, aged wood and Elm Thence South. Thence down  
and fifty poles to three beached Pines South fifty then across Wood four hundred poles to a large oak hundred  
standing on the bank of the fork at three hundred poles crossing a branch of Fork back Thence North  
and Wood one hundred and fifty poles to two beached Pines in addition three lines Thence North fifty three across

and poles to the Beginning  
aces; to have and to hold the said Tract or Parcel of Land with its Appur-  
James Speed.

over. IN WITNESS whereof, the said Patrick Henry Esq;—  
Commonwealth of Virginia hath hereunto set his Hand, and caused the  
d Commonwealth to be ated, at Richmond, on the second Day of  
e Year of our Lord, One thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-five and of  
the Tenth.

P. Henry

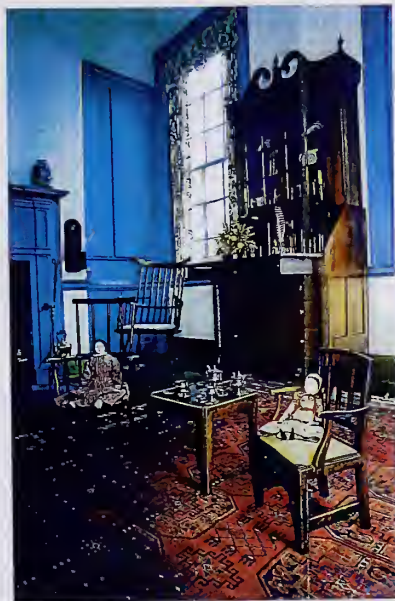


**History**—No house more gracefully embodies Federal architecture than Farmington, built 1808-1810 by John and Lucy Fry Speed. It was set on an original 3,500-acre tract, now a 18-acre property. The tract was granted to John's father, Revolutionary Captain James Speed in 1785. Among Farmington's documents are the deed to the land, signed by Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia, and touchingly "human" letters from the young Abraham Lincoln, who visited his close friend, Joshua Speed (son of Judge John Speed) at Farmington in 1841.

**Major Features**—Striking Jeffersonian features of this perfectly proportioned fourteen-room house are the two central octagonal rooms, each flanked by square rooms and separated by a wide hallway. A favorite detail is the hidden stairway adventurously steep and narrow. Exquisite reeded stairways and meticulously carved mantels and moldings add their special elegance to the interior. On the grounds are an elaborate early 19th-century garden, a working blacksmith shop, and a handsome reconstructed stone and timber barn.

**Chronology**—After the widowed Lucy Speed sold it in 1865, Farmington had two long-time owners who operated the farm until the 1940's, when it changed hands twice. The last owners, appreciating its beauty and historical importance, began repairs and added conveniences that put the house in excellent condition. In late 1954 a group to SAVE FARMINGTON arose, the forerunner of HISTORIC HOMES FOUNDATION, INC., who purchased the home in 1958. In 1976 an extensive refurbishing of the exterior returned Farmington to its original appearance.

**Days and Hours**—Farmington is located just off the intersection of Bardotown Road and the Waterson Expressway (I-261). Farmington is open every day except New Year's Day, Easter, Derby Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The hours are from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The last guided tour starts at 3:45 p.m. Free parking is provided. Admission is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students, children under 6 are free. Attractive shop offers unusual gifts. Group tours and rates can be arranged by writing Farmington, 3033 Bardotown Road, Louisville, Ky. 40205 or by telephoning (502) 452-9920.



Designed according to a plan by Thomas Jefferson and constructed in 1808-1810, Farmington is nationally recognized as an outstanding example of Federal architecture. The family sitting room (above) is graced by a Kentucky secretary/bookcase of the Sheraton period.



**History**—Major William Croghan and his wife, Lucy Clark, began developing this country seat above the Falls of the Ohio River in 1790. He had ventured into Kentucky following Revolutionary War service to survey military lands with his future brother-in-law, George Rogers Clark, the first western military and civil leader. When General Clark came to live with the Croghans at Locust Grove in 1809, his successful campaigns against the British and Indians in the old northwest territory were legendary.

**Restoration**—Following acquisition in 1963 by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Jefferson County, nationally known experts supervised the meticulous restoration and furnishing of the mansion house. Locust Grove is peacefully situated on 56 of its original 103 acres. The garden has been laid out with an axis and four quadrants. Its borders have flowering shrubs and trees known in Kentucky before 1818. A 15-minute audio-visual presentation explains and illustrates the restoration process.

**Significance**—Major Croghan, prominent in Louisville affairs, purchased part of the land from James and Delley Madison. Among visitors at Locust Grove were Aaron Burr, John James Audubon, Cassius Marcellus Clay, and three presidents of the United States: James Monroe, Andrew Jackson and Zachary Taylor. William Clark, General Clark's youngest brother, and Meriwether Lewis told of their adventures upon their return to Locust Grove from the Pacific.

**Days and Hours**—The plantation house, its dependencies, and the visitors' center are open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Last guided tour begins at 3:30 p.m. Closed New Year's Day, Easter, Derby Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Admission is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students, children under 6 are free. Free parking is provided. A gift shop features unique craft items. For information on



Clark (above) was but one of many famous citizens to be entertained in the walnut-



In its heyday, the kitchen depicted

